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THE TIMES

No. 65,857 MONDAY APRIL 7 1997

TODAY 10P



WARTIME ARMS AND A FATHER'S LOVE PAGE 17



MURDER IN THE VILLA: HUSBAND'S STORY PAGE 18

15 PAGES OF TIMES SPORT

PLUS: YOUR 16-PAGE GUIDE TO THE FLORA MARATHON



BUY TODAY'S PAPER GET TOMORROW'S FOR 10P VOUCHER PAGE 2

TODAY 10P

THIS WEEK IN THE TIMES

TODAY

Election '97

'I have seen the future and it's tartan'

Michael Gove on what Scotland can tell us about Blair's Britain



TOMORROW

THE GO-BETWEENS

The Asian girls trapped between two cultures

WEDNESDAY

Wrap Artists



Grace Bradberry on the season's new wrap-round dress

THURSDAY

BOOKS

Laurence Norfolk on John Keay's epic study of end of empire



Peter Ackroyd on Edward Fitzgerald, Ireland's *adventurer* lord

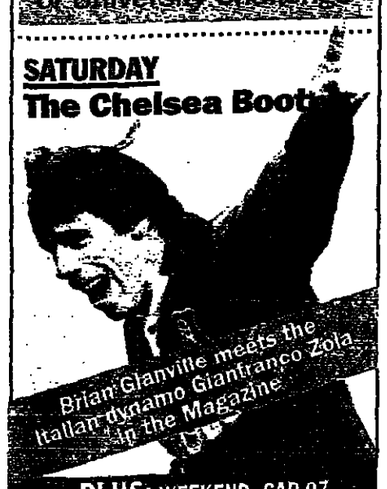
FRIDAY

Late starter for ten

The septuagenarian star of University Challenge

SATURDAY

The Chelsea Boot



Brian Glanville meets the Italian dynamo Gianfranco Zola in the Magazine

PLUS: WEEKEND, CAR 97, WEEKEND MONEY, 1015 FOR YOUNG TIMES READERS AND 7-DAY TV AND RADIO GUIDE IN THE DIRECTORY

Pressure on MP grows as broadcaster agrees to fight on anti-sleaze ticket

BBC man Bell to stand against Neil Hamilton

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, RUSSELL JENKINS AND CAROL MIDGLEY

THE broadcaster Martin Bell is to stand as an anti-corruption candidate against Neil Hamilton, the Conservative MP at the centre of the cash-for-questions controversy.

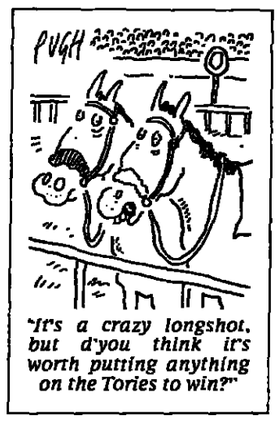
The decision, made in agreement with the local Labour and Liberal Democrat candidates who are to step aside, meant the pressure on Mr Hamilton to stand down was reaching breaking-point last night.

Dissidents within his Tatton party had already secured agreement that there should be a secret ballot at his adoption meeting tomorrow night — and that in itself put a big question mark over his chances of survival. Now Mr Bell's decision means that Mr Hamilton may have to quit to give the Conservatives any hope of retaining the seat.

If he goes, Mr Bell is expected to withdraw, leaving the Labour candidate Jon Kelly and the Liberal Democrat Roger Barlow to return to the fray.

The opposition party leaderships were delighted last night at their coup in securing Mr Bell, a widely respected journalist who became a household figure as the BBC's white-suited war correspondent. His interest in fighting the seat was made known to Tony Blair's office by a photographer who works for the party and knows the journalist well. Mr Bell then spoke to Paddy Ashdown and Mr Blair's senior staff before travelling to the constituency yesterday to meet local officials of both parties.

They were apparently impressed by his determination to make a stand on the issue of sleaze and after some discussions agreed that their candidates should stand aside. Mr Bell was a Young Liberal at university, but he has never been politically active.



"It's a crazy longshot, but d'you think it's worth putting anything on the Tories to win?"

The news of Mr Bell's readiness to stand came as the final blow to the Tatton Conservative Association. Most members have been loyal to Mr Hamilton, but there is increasing concern among them that the MP has become a liability.

A recent ICM poll suggested that Labour would give Mr Hamilton a close fight in the fifth safest Conservative seat in Britain, while an alternative candidate would enjoy a comfortable nine-point lead.

Tony Martin, the Tatton Association treasurer, led the calls for a secret ballot to allow constituency members to register their views without appearing to be personally disloyal to Mr Hamilton or his wife Christine.

He said: "My personal view is that Neil Hamilton is innocent of the charges against him. I have taken these steps because the electorate does not share that view. He is an electoral liability. This seat, the fifth safest in the country, is now entirely loseable.

"An adoption meeting is normally just a rally. There is obviously a great deal of feeling against Neil Hamilton. The argument I put forward is that a lot of people feel inhibited in expressing a view from social constraints because he is friends with a lot of them. It takes a brave person to stand up against them."

Laurance Hobday, a Macclesfield councillor, welcomed the secret ballot, although he said it woud not affect the way he intends to vote. "It may allow other members of the association to feel a little freer to vote the way the electorate is telling them," he said.

"I spoke to a farmer about a completely separate matter the other day and asked him about whether he was a Conservative voter. he said 'yes' but he would not vote for Neil Hamilton. He said he would vote for virtually anyone but Mr Hamilton."

Mr Hamilton said yesterday that he intended to make no public comments.

Election 97, pages 7-11
Peter Stothard, page 20
Leading article, page 21
Lib-Dem manifesto, pages 40, 41



Bell: war correspondent took decision after contacting both Labour and the Liberal Democrats

Cook takes Tory Eurosceptic line on the single currency

BY OUR POLITICAL EDITOR

ROBIN COOK yesterday tried to outflank the Government on the single currency by virtually ruling out British membership under Labour during the next Parliament — if it had not joined in 1999.

The Shadow Foreign Secretary took the position that Tory Eurosceptics have been urging John Major to adopt. The move was the latest campaign shift by Labour after a weekend in which it had been accused by the Tories of making policy on the hoof.

The two most significant changes, conversion to the principle of privatisation and the dropping of key concessions promised to union leaders, were confirmed yesterday. Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, said that he would look at the possible sale of government assets, land and building worth billions of pounds.

Leadership sources also said that there was no longer any plan to give part-time workers the same rights as full-time workers, or to cut the time workers need to be in a job to be able to claim unfair dismissal.

Mr Blair will make the privatisation shift explicit today in a City speech. He will say that the presumption of his government would be "that economic activity is best left to the private sector".

Mr Cook's single currency intervention was seized on by the Tories as yet another gaffe. But it appeared to have been well-planned. Rightwing Tory MPs were last night pressing for a fresh shift from the Government to match Mr Cook's move, and ministers, caught off-guard, were questioning whether he had been speaking without the backing of Mr Blair and Mr Brown.

It appeared unlikely that both were consulted by Mr Cook on the precise wording, but last night they were professing satisfaction at his remarks — in line with Mr Blair's statement that there were "formidable obstacles" in the way of entry in the first wave in 1999.

Mr Cook told LWT's *Jonathan Dimbleby* programme: "If you didn't join in 1999, it's very difficult to see a government that has taken the decision that Britain wasn't ready in 1999, coming to the decision that it would be ready by the year after or the year after that." Labour has made a commitment to have a referendum if joining a single currency was contemplated.

"I doubt whether any Government is going to have such a referendum immediately before a general election. So, in the event that Britain doesn't join in the first wave ... I would have thought the probability is that one is looking towards the subsequent Parliament."

Crewman dies in fire on liner

A German crewman died when fire broke out on the Cunard liner *Vista Fjord* near the Bahamas, forcing nearly a thousand passengers and crew to prepare to abandon ship. The fire was put out when the vessel docked at Freeport three hours later.

Cup final replay

A goal apiece during extra time took the Middlesbrough-Leicester City Coca-Cola final to a replay on April 16. Liverpool lost to Coventry in the Premiership..... Page 25

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Defiant Aintree back under starter's orders

BY RICHARD EVANS

THE Grand National, which had to be abandoned on Saturday after two IRA bomb hoaxes, will become a symbol of defiance today when it is run amid the tightest security ever at a British sporting event.

After a "Herculean effort" by police, who conducted an inch-by-inch search of the 250-acre Aintree racecourse and checked 7,000 vehicles, ground staff began repairing damage to the track yesterday.

Thirty-six runners are expected to line up for the rescheduled race at 5pm today, which will be shown live by BBC Television. No private vehicles will be allowed on the course; all spectators will be searched, and several parts of the track will be closed to the public.

Police are also stepping up security for three major sporting events next weekend: Sunday's FA cup semi-final at Arsenal's ground at Highbury, north London, the other semi-final in Manchester, and the London Marathon, in which 25,000 people will run. Yesterday, however, a determination to run the world's greatest steeplechase shone through all the chaos and havoc brought about by its postponement. "The race must be run for the sake of the

Continued on page 2, col 8

Car chaos, page 3
National pride, page 25



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NEWS IN BRIEF

Loyalists burn down Catholic church

Hundreds of Roman Catholics celebrated Mass in a parish hall yesterday after their church was burnt down by loyalists in Randalstown, Co Antrim. Neighbouring Catholic churches lent an altar and vestments to allow Mass to be held in the hall across the road from St MacNissi's Church. *The Most Rev Patrick Walsh, the Bishop of Down and* Conor, who celebrated Mass in the hall, said the arson attack was "wanton destruction" and an "abomination".

In a veiled rebuke to the Rev Ian Paisley, who has been stirring up anti-Catholic sentiments recently, the bishop condemned "much publicised anti-Catholic diatribes". He said: "There are people who are mouthing this day in and day out consistently. That is bound to have an effect on people's mentalities and . . . can lead to something like this."

Pay-as-you-drive plan

A pilot car-share scheme to help to reduce congestion and pollution begins today in two districts of Edinburgh. One hundred householders, who will pay an annual fee of £120 to join, will have access to a pool of cars that they will be able to hire on an hourly, daily or weekly basis. The £230,000 scheme is mainly funded by the Transport Department.

Prison suicide warning

Overcrowding could increase the risk of suicide at Wandsworth prison, according to the Board of Visitors' annual report. Paul Infield, the board's chairman, said yesterday: "Prisoners are spending more time locked in their cells. One of the things that could happen when people are left alone with their thoughts is an increase in suicide."

BBC retrospective

Confidential footage from the BBC's private archive is being used in a four-part documentary, *Auntie — The History of the BBC*, to be broadcast this autumn. The series will cover the period from the BBC's formation in 1922 to the appointment of Marmaduke Hussey as chairman in 1986. Jeremy Bennett, an independent programme-maker, is the producer.

Oasis brothers' wealth

Noel and Liam Gallagher of the pop group Oasis have joined the ranks of Britain's richest men and women, according to *The Sunday Times*'s list of Britain's richest 1,000. They enter the list at 461 with an estimated wealth of £40 million. However, last night their spokesman said the figure was wide of the mark and declared: "It's rubbish."

Missing pilot plea

The fate of an airline pilot who vanished from his yacht a year ago may be decided by a coroner. Detectives have failed to find any trace of Norman Harriss, a British Airways pilot from Tadworth, Surrey, and have asked for an inquest to be held. If this is agreed, the coroner would rule on what happened to Mr Harriss on April 4, 1996.

Learner driver code

Driving instructors are to get a code of conduct that could ban them from having any physical contact with their pupils other than an initial handshake. The Driving Standards Agency said the code was aimed at eliminating the potential for embarrassment. Last month a driving instructor was convicted of indecently assaulting a female pupil.

Magistrates to fine high earners more heavily

By Richard Ford
Home Correspondent

HIGH earners are to be fined more heavily under new guidelines for magistrates. An income of £30,000 a year is classified as high, £13,000 as average and £5,000 as low.

Advice to be issued this week to the 27,500 members of the Magistrates' *Association says: "Punishment does* not lie in the amount of the fine but in the degree of hardship and inconvenience caused by the need to pay." The guidelines also recommend that *an early guilty plea could cut a third* off a fine or jail term.

They urge magistrates to treat racial motivation as an aggravating factor for many offences, including assault, affray and household burglary. The guidelines, backed by the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham of Cornhill, and produced by the association and the Justices' Clerks Society, are aimed at greater consistency.

Lord Bingham says: "I think it most important that, within discretionary limits, magistrates' courts up and down the country should endeavour to approach sentencing with a measure of consistency, and I have no doubt that these guidelines will contribute powerfully to that end."

The guide provides magistrates with charts to help them to decide the appropriate level of fine and jail. It suggests that a high income offender convicted of cultivating cannabis should be fined £540, compared with £225 for an average earner and £90 for a low income offender. A high income earner convicted of being drunk and disorderly could be fine £270, compared with £115 and £45 for *average and low incomes respectively.*

Driving without insurance could result in graduated fines of £1,300, £540 and £215. In drink-drive cases, *the guidance gives the rate of alcohol* in breath, blood and urine, and the corresponding length of disqualification and size of fines. A motorist with 80-125 millilitres of alcohol in his or her blood would be disqualified for 12 months, but if on a high income the fine could be £1,080, compared with £450 and £180. The guideline fines for failing to stop and failing to report an accident are £865 for a high earner, £360 for average income and £145 for low pay.

Magistrates are not forced to keep to the recommended fines and each of the bookler's 52 pages carries the advice: "Remember: these are guidelines, not a tariff." *In most cases* magistrates will operate them. It is the first time the association has produced guideline fines linked to income. The figures follow the scrapping in 1993 of the Government's controversial "unit" fine system, under which fines were linked to the seriousness of the offence and an offender's disposable weekly income.

In other examples of the new advice, a high earner found guilty of criminal damage could be fined £810 compared with £340 for someone on average pay and £135 for a low income. Failing to surrender to bail could bring fines of £350, £150 and £60 respectively, and for careless driving £450, £180 and £75. A motorist convicted of driving with 161-195 millilitres of alcohol in the blood could be banned from driving for two years and fined £1,800, £750 or £300.

The income-related penalties for failing to produce motoring documents are £145, £60 and £25. The list also provides guidance on fines for motorway offences, including driving in reverse, where it recommends fines of £865, £360 and £145, and for stopping on the hard shoulder penalties of £300, £120 and £50.

Anglo-Irish elite given wide berth by embassy

By Nicholas Watt, Chief Ireland Correspondent

BRITAIN is turning its back on the remnants of its loyal servants in Ireland after the Ambassador to Dublin ordered the removal of Anglo-Irish aristocrats from the embassy's guest list.

In a stark reminder of the waning influence of the scions of the old Protestant Ascendancy, Veronica Sutherland has told her social secretary that the aristocracy and the landed gentry are no longer central to Irish society. The clipped tones of earls and baronets have now been replaced at the ambassador's parties by the accents of Irish industrialists and leading lights from Dublin's musical and theatrical worlds.

The list of those who have come under the Ambassador's disapproving gaze reads like a *Who's Who* of the Anglo-Irish elite. The Earl of Mount Charles, whose forefathers fought with William of Orange at the Battle of the Boyne in 1690, heads the list. It also includes Clementine Beite, a cousin of Nancy Mitford, who lives at the magnificent Russborough House in Co Wicklow, and Cholmeley Cholmeley-Harrison, who lives at Emo Court in Portlaoise.

Yet the members of the gentry and aristocracy all say that they were not aware that they had been removed from the embassy guest list, and they insist that they would never complain, were they considered unsuitable. However, the embassy has been *inundated with calls from* irate members of the landed gentry who wondered why they have been excluded from parties at Glencairn, the Ambassador's splendid Edwardian residence in the south Dublin suburbs.

One prominent peer spoke privately of his anger at the way in which Mrs Sutherland had ignored the Anglo-Irish since she took over as Ambassador in 1995.

He said: "The Ambassador has never sought my opinion, which means that she is not doing her job properly because she should be canvassing opinions of all strands of thought in Ireland. Previous ambassadors were always keen to hear what we had to say."

The aristocrats point out that Mrs Sutherland, 57, is cut from a different cloth to her Oxbridge-educated predecessors. Educated at the Royal School, Bath, she studied at the Universities of London and Southampton before joining the Diplomatic Service in 1965.

JOHN COGILL



Veronica Sutherland, who took over as British Ambassador to Ireland in 1995

One observer of the Dublin diplomatic scene said that the Ambassador had wanted a "new broom" to be taken to the guest list when she arrived in 1995. The observer said: "When the Ambassador arrived in Dublin she looked down the guest list and asked why so many people with Anglo-Irish connections were *invited so regularly. She took* a utilitarian view and said that more Irish people should be invited."

The Ambassador's new approach faced its first challenge when the invitation list was drawn up for a large party that was held for the Prince of Wales during his historic visit to Dublin in 1995.

The Earl of Mount Charles, 45, who was once a regular at embassy parties, was initially left off the list until an official *at the embassy pointed out* that he qualified in his own right as a prominent Irishman regardless of his lineage. The earl, who is a leading member of the governing Fine Gael party who used to stagerock concerts at Slane Castle, was hastily added to the list.

Charles Lysaght, a Dublin barrister who is a veteran of embassy parties over 30 years, said that there were fewer Anglo-Irish at the parties because the elite was in decline.

He said: "When I first went to the embassy there were *more Anglo-Irish because they* were a power in the land. Major businesses in Dublin were still in the hands of old families. But that has all changed." Some of the new faces at embassy parties say that the guest lists for Mrs Sutherland's parties always have a well-chosen cross-section of Irish people. James Hickey, the chairman of the Abbey Theatre in Dublin, said: "The parties have a fair old mix including captains of industry, senior civil servants and politicians, and people from the theatre.

"The Ambassador has done an excellent job in bringing the parties up to date and making the embassy very accessible."

Mary O'Rourke, the deputy leader of the main opposition Fianna Fail party, described Mrs Sutherland as tremendously hospitable. "The Ambassador always has a very interesting mix of people. She is very likeable," Ms O'Rourke said.

National

Continued from page 1

sponsors, Martell, the Grand National itself, and the nation," said Jenny Pitman, trainer of the runners Nahthen Lad and Smith's Band.

Charles Barnett, the clerk of the course, said: "We are overwhelmed by the support and encouragement we have received from so many quarters, and believe it right for the Martell Grand National to be rescheduled.

"The message we are sending out is that this great race is part of the nation's heritage. It is one of the most important sporting events in the world, and it must go ahead."

About 25 ground staff from Aintree and Haydock who began to repair fences damaged by the departing crowd had to remove litter, bottles, and cans left behind.

Bottles had been smashed on the course by animal rights protesters, according to Philip Sharpe, the lad who looks after Suni Bay, one of the National favourites. "They say they care about animals, but they are hypocrites. They started smashing bottles and throwing bottles," he said.

At a press conference last night an exhausted Mr Barnett said that today's security operation at the course would be thorough. "Everyone who attends the racecourse will be searched, which I'm afraid will not make it very easy. However, the police have assured us that they will do their best to be as speedy as they can.

"We are endeavouring to set up arrangements for transport to the course as we will not allow any private vehicles to park within the confines of the racecourse."

He said it was nothing short of amazing how well Saturday's evacuation had gone and the way the public had behaved.

"If someone told you to evacuate a 250-acre site on which there were 75,000 people, the logistics are quite staggering. The officials, the police, and the co-operation of the public were such, it became a very successful operation."

National pride, page 25

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Children learn to save but soccer kit still scores

By Robin Young

MILLIONS of image-conscious children have diverted their parents' spending away from traditional children's clothes to branded sportswear and replica football kits. Verdict, the retail market analysts, says the market for boys' clothes shrank by 2 per cent last year, while £150 million was spent on replica football kits.

Despite this expenditure, children are becoming a generation of shrewd money managers. They are increasing their savings despite the first cut in their income for a decade, according to the annual pocket-money monitor issued by Wall's, the ice-cream maker.

Children are subsisting on weekly parental grants averaging 7p less than in 1996, at £2.33.

Children's income from pocket money is not the only area to have suffered a decline. Their total weekly income, including earnings from paper rounds and odd-jobs and handouts from friends and relatives, has decreased by 7 per cent. Though children have worked hard enough to boost their earnings by 4 per cent, gifts and largesse from sources other than their parents have diminished by 5 per cent.

Despite this, youngsters are stashing away money faster than before. The 1997 survey shows that 36 per cent now save their pocket money, compared with a mere 4 per cent in 1975 when the monitor began.

Last year the amount being saved doubled, and this year, despite their straitened economic circumstances, children managed to boost their savings by a further 10 per cent.

Sue Keane, a consumer psychologist, said: "Children are taking a much more responsible attitude toward their pocket money. With an election and uncertainty about the economy, children are reflecting their parents' caution, and saving more, rather than blowing everything on short-term treats."

Though there has been a decrease in pocket money overall, girls are still receiving preferential treatment. Their pocket money averages £2.48, compared with £2.19 for boys.

Scottish children get the most generous treatment, receiving an average £2.95 in pocket money and £5.14 in total weekly receipts. Children in Wales and the West have to get by with £2.14 pocket money and an average of £3.56 in weekly income.

It is unlikely that much of children's prodigious saving stems from their preference for footballing kit and other sports-associated leisurewear. They are notoriously expensive and likely to cost more than the items of children's clothing they are increasingly replacing. Verdict predicts that the sportswear market, already worth £1.4 billion a year, will produce compound growth of 10 per cent a year into the next century.

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CHANGING TIMES

'We had to do something to help. Thousands had nowhere to sleep, so we offered our spare room'

Merseyside wages its own war against IRA terrorists

BY CAROL MIDGLEY AND RUSSELL JENKINS

HUNDREDS of Grand National racegoers faced spending a second night in Liverpool last night as attempts to retrieve thousands of stranded cars from Aintree turned to chaos.

Drivers waiting outside the course were first told by police that cars could be picked up at noon. The deadline was then put back to 3pm before police insisted cars not removed by 6pm would be locked in.

However when it became clear that the operation was not possible in the time they extended the deadline to midnight. There was further confusion when drivers turned up at the wrong gates to collect their vehicles. Some, who had left bags and jackets containing their car keys inside the main Aintree building were turned away.

A spokesman said vehicles not collected were to be removed. Owners would not be charged a fee."If it is not possible for people to get to Aintree to collect their belongings, the property will be gathered up and secured and kept at Aintree where it can be collected tomorrow."

The chaotic scenes came as the people of Liverpool waged their own war on terrorism. Police, social services, voluntary organisations and ordinary citizens reacted swiftly to implement evacuation procedures for thousands of stranded Aintree racegoers which officials said was the biggest since the war.

More than 2,000 people spent the night in sports halls, churches and schools as hastily arranged beds were marshalled around the city. An estimated 1,000 more were invited into private homes as police cordoned off their vehicles and belongings.

Vic Citarella, the director of Liverpool Social Services, said Operation Aintree had been the largest scale emergency evacuation in modern times. "I cannot think of an occasion where people have had to be accommodated on such a scale. For the social services department it brings back memories of Hillsborough."

The procedures had followed the city and Sefton Council's emergency disaster plans. As many as 5,000 racegoers from all over the country woke up to be served breakfast by Merseyside's Good Samaritans and some even stayed for Sunday lunch with families.

More than 20,000 were evacuated in a fleet of 100 buses and coaches from Aintree to Albert Dock and those who needed overnight accommodation were sent on to the council centres. Everton Sports Centre took 500 alone. They were fed burgers and chips and emerged rested, singing the praises of the city's residents as some prepared to enjoy today's "people's National".

Jenny Pitman, the trainer, said she welcomed the decision to run the race. "We cannot be held to ransom by these people and neither can the country."

People who had to leave dogs in their vehicles overnight were escorted to the car parks in the centre of the course to retrieve their pets. One man was allowed to his car at 7am. A small brown terrier sat on the back seat.

Jimmy Hill, the broadcaster, who stood first in the queue with his wife to collect his car, put himself forward as the crowd's spokesman. "It is all very British," he said. "It is like the war. The more we are inconvenienced, the more we laugh."

Ron Rooney and his wife Joan had seen the drama unfold on television. Mr Rooney, 59, said: "We had to do something to help. The television said there would be up thousands of people with nowhere to spend the night so we rang the radio station and offered our spare room."

They took in Julia Edgeworth, 20, a university student and Joe Jefferson, her boyfriend. "By nine o'clock we were sitting in the lounge with Ron and Joan drinking lager and playing party games," she said.

Jim Regan and his son Dave were settling down in front of the television when the chaos began. By midnight on Saturday they had made over 300 cups of tea for evacuees.

Mr Regan, 65, a retired engineer, said: "People were roaming up and down our road like lost sheep. They were offering us money to use the toilet and the phone but we wouldn't accept a penny and invited them in for cups of tea."

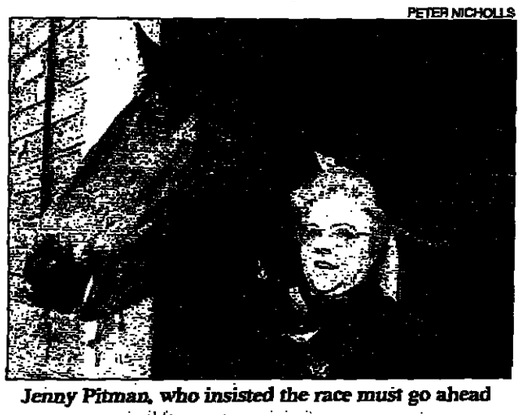
Aland Gregory, Everton Sports Centre manager, said: "They ranged from children to pensioners and they were from all over the country. We had this worked out as part of the disaster emergency plan but we never envisaged anything quite like this."

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Joe Tizzard, 17, who was attempting to become the youngest winner of the Grand National for 60 years, rode three point-to-point winners in Dorset yesterday. His first visit to Aintree ended in a five-hour journey home in the back of a horsebox, sitting on an up-turned bucket, with Straight Talk, the horse he was due to ride. Sharing the journey were his parents and sister, and trainer Paul Nicholls.

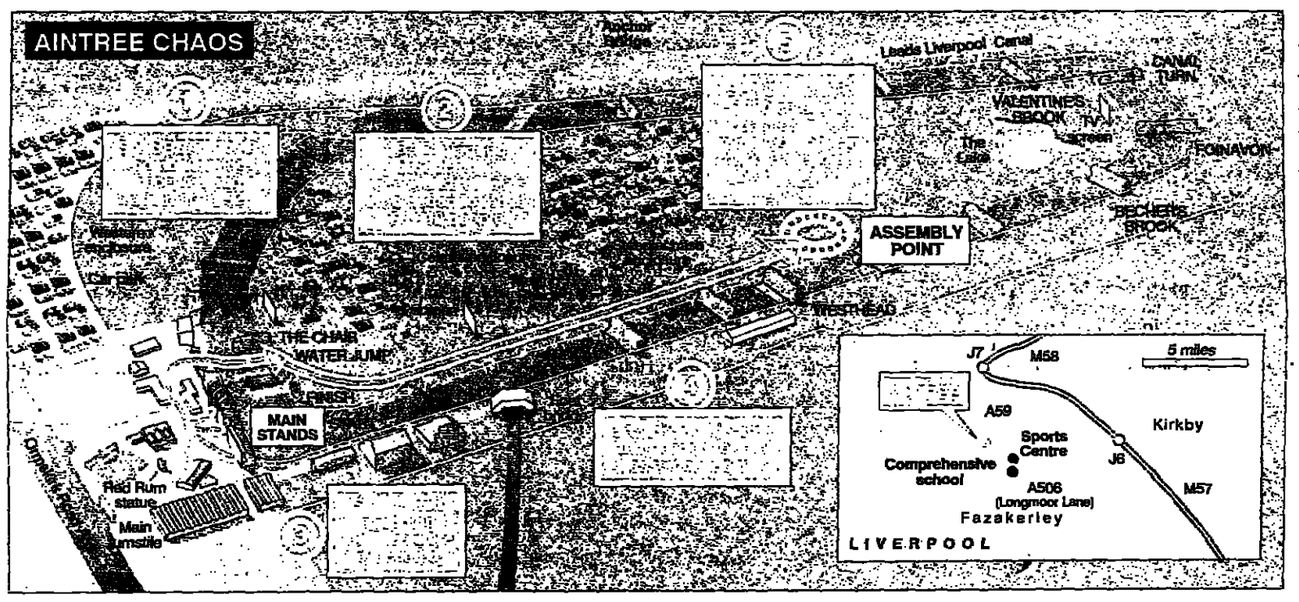


A harassed police officer directs racegoers towards their cars yesterday as the massive operation to clear the area by midnight got underway



PETER NICHOLLS

Jenny Pitman, who insisted the race must go ahead



Bookies delighted at race decision

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

BOOKMAKERS greeted the decision to run the Grand National today with relief after Saturday's cancellation threatened to cost them about £5 million in lost profits.

The National is the country's biggest flutter of the year, with the public laying out about £70 million in bets. If the race had been cancelled, the bookmakers would have been obliged to return all the money, losing potential profits from the race but still paying for the extra staff called in to deal with the additional business.

Most bookmakers are expected to offer punters the chance of withdrawing their bet ahead of the race this afternoon. Stakes that were placed after Saturday, March 29, on horses that do not take part in the race, may also be refunded.

On-course bets laid with the Tote, which have all been declared void, can also be reclaimed by applying to the address on the back. Malcolm Palmer, for Corals, is confident that about 99 per cent of punters will stick with their original bets. He also hopes that the bookmakers will receive some last-minute extra betting that will compensate them for the cost of calling in extra staff again today.

The main bookies could still be financially disappointed should one of the pre-race favourites win the National. William Hill has said that victory for Wylde Hide, quoted at 10-1, would result in the biggest National payout for many years. Jenny Pitman's two horses, Nahthen Lad and Smith's Band, have also proved popular with the punters.

The betting industry has faced a torrid few years since the National was abandoned after two false starts in 1993. Competition from the National Lottery has hit horse-racing turnover and a series of poor winters has hit the racing programme.

Stranded punters champ at the bit

Sportswriter **Alan Lee** shared the long wait

THE well-bred and down-at-heel camped out together, united by their temporary homelessness, unable to return to transport and belongings. We sat at chipped desks, on chairs made for another generation, wearing our creased racing suits and hats with prickly, unwashed embarrassment as the hours passed. It was more than a day since the cancelled race and in the school set up like a refuge from the Blitz, with volunteers serving free tea, we waited for release from a most unsporting purgatory.

Like many stranded punters, I had battled my way to Aintree through the motorway misery inflicted by the IRA and then found helplessness at the same hands. There others who suffered more, like the man who spent the night in a hotel bath or another who slept rough by Liverpool docks. But by yesterday afternoon, the stoicism was wearing thin. Three Grand National jockeys had walked the streets, still in racing boots and breeches but now dishevelled and unshaven, mothers queued querulously for public telephones, fretting for children back home. And many warm-hearted Liverpudlians opened their homes to the displaced and indisposed.

It had all been very British at first. Saturday's withdrawal was well ordered and good natured. The humour was black but the mood about as fraught as an office fire drill. They wouldn't bomb the National, would they? There were some cries of complaint from high-heeled women and some posturing from their pint-clutching partners. But then a Ghurka band, banished like the rest of us, struck up as they marched and the crowd, unwilling to break up an annual party, danced their defiance.

Dusk was falling before most of us accepted we would not be going home, that the police were not completing an operation but expanding it. The streets of unfashionable Aintree were full of confusion as thousands competed for food, drink, transport and telephones. Incongruously, in a newsagent's shop, the only queue was for lottery tickets.

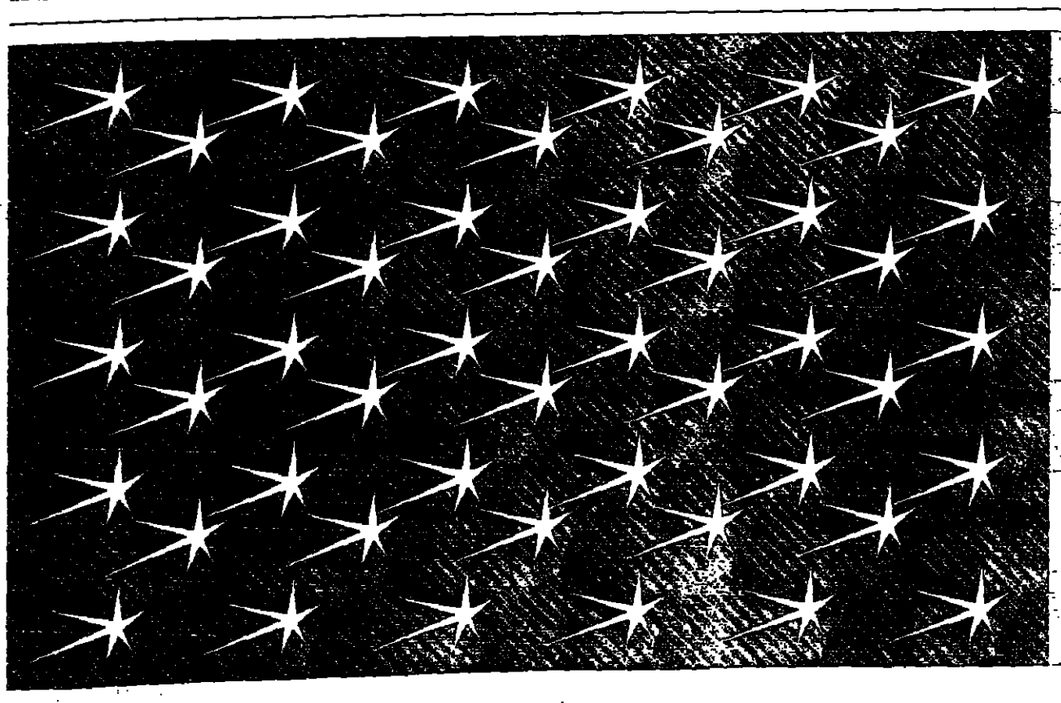
A sandwich board evangelist brandished his message, "Righteousness lifts a nation but sin is a disgrace to all". Two miles on, outside a motel where a receptionist was trying to clear her lobby of refugees, I met a woman who agreed. She was in her late seventies and had limped there from her Saturday shop near the course. "It's taken me three hours," she said. "And I'm supposed to be disabled. These people don't think of that, do they?"

Delay upsets the runners

BY RICHARD EVANS

THE outcome of the postponed race will hinge on how the likely 36 runners have coped with 48 hours of upheaval.

Nick Wingfield Digby, a Newmarket vet, said yesterday: "If their routine is broken, the horses are likely to suffer because their digestive system may be affected, particularly when they are in a strange environment eating strange food, or having their exercise regime drastically altered." Travel can also have a debilitating effect on some horses, who lose weight and fitness.



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Churches ask for single bishop in leap of faith

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

CLERGY of five denominations in Wales have put their historic differences behind them to ask for an "ecumenical bishop" who would oversee all their members in east Cardiff.

The proposal, certain to arouse fierce opposition among those who cherish their hard-won Protestant independence, would mean the first such bishop in the world. He would be appointed as an assistant to the Anglican Bishop of Monmouth, the Right Rev Rowan Williams, but would provide oversight in an area of 50,000 people for the Church in Wales, Methodists, Presbyterians, covenanted Baptists and the United Reformed Church. The proposal will be put to church leaders this year.

Although the architects of the plan are optimistic, it is unlikely to meet with universal approval because of differences between the denominations over ministry and episcopal oversight.

Many Baptists and Presbyterians cherish their legacy of opposition to episcopal leadership, basing their arguments on biblical precedent. Many Anglicans, on the other hand, do not accept the ministry of those who have not been episcopally ordained.

The proposal will be debated this week by an episcopacy consultation of the World Council of Churches in Strasbourg. If successful in Wales, they would almost certainly be followed elsewhere in the world.

The bishop would have to be a man because the Anglicans in Wales have only recently voted for women priests and do not accept that women can be bishops. He would act as a focus of unity and oversight for the five denominations, carrying out confirmations



Abraham-Williams: said plan could end discord

and taking part in ordinations. Many Protestant churches are facing declining numbers and believe there is a new strength to be found in unity.

A paper outlining the scheme says the proposed area "has considerable mission potential and is considered by the church leaders to be ripe for a strategic approach." The Rev Donald Knighton, chairman of the South West District of the Methodist Church, said: "In this area of east Cardiff there are so many ecumenical partnerships between the churches that they feel they need a leadership that is ecumenical rather than separate. This would be a breakthrough in the log jam in negotiations between episcopal and non-episcopal churches. This is very much a leap of faith, but we do have to take leaps of faith if we are going to be effective as churches."

The Rev Gethin Abraham-Williams, a Baptist minister in the area, said that many Baptist churches had made a covenant in an attempt to seek unity, but unity had not been achieved. The question of bishops was a main stumbling block. "If we would have a bishop in common, maybe that could be the answer."

Carey appeals for lottery funds

BY RUTH GLEDHILL

THE Archbishop of Canterbury will today appeal for National Lottery funding for nearly 170 country churches that want to repair their buildings and to run community projects. Representatives from the churches will meet in London today to rally support for £12.5 million Millennium Commission funding which has already been long-listed. The request comes while many in the churches still have doubts about the ethics of accepting lottery cash.

But Dr George Carey said: "I hope very much that the Millennium Commission will wish to offer its support to this venture and make so much else possible by using the past to celebrate the anniversary of our Saviour's birth, and through this programme to enrich the future for millions of our rural people."

The money would pay for tourist centres, Internet web sites, playgroups, concert facilities and other community projects at isolated churches.

Dr Carey said: "Strong community life is an important contribution to health and happiness, particularly for the young, for families and the elderly. The possibility of using the often-spacious church buildings for good purposes in addition to worship offers a new vision of Christian worship."

NICK RAY



Robert Hardy and a campaigner dressed for action at the battlefield yesterday

Actor adds voice to fight for battlefield

BY TIM JONES

ROBERT HARDY, the actor and authority on medieval warfare, appealed to the Government yesterday to stop a property developer building houses on an historic battlefield.

Hardy, the Battlefields Trust and other societies believe it is imperative that the planned development at Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, should be halted. The Battle of Tewkesbury, on May 4, 1471, is regarded as having been decisive in ending the Wars of the Roses.

Hardy said he was strongly opposed to the plans by Bryant Homes Mercia to build 62 houses on a part of the field known as the Gastons. "A battlefield is a very rare commodity, in a way as important as cathedrals," he said. "They are charged with remembrances and electricity."

He hoped that everyone opposed to the scheme would protest to Tewkesbury council. "And if that fails, then John Gummer [the Environment Secretary] should intervene and save this historical site for the nation."

Joe Kent, the borough council leader, said there was no evidence the area where the houses could be built was part of the battlefield.

Villagers reluctant to see the light

BY ROBIN YOUNG

SPARKS are flying between neighbours in two tiny seaside settlements over the introduction of electricity. After almost 150 years in darkness the villagers of Ethie Haven in Angus have decided to forsake gas lamps and driftwood stoves.

Less than half a mile away, there is resistance among the people of Corbie. They feel that electricity threatens their traditional way of life, and say the new poles carrying power to Ethie Haven ruin their views of Lunan Bay.

Ethie Haven, built as a fishing village in the 1850s, was bought up by Edinburgh professional people as fishing vessels outgrew the harbour. Comprising 14 stone cottages, hidden at the end of a two-mile farm track, "the Haen" became a popular summertime retreat.

By contrast, Corbie, a shanty town of wooden beach huts and abandoned caravans, was built in the 1920s. Like their neighbours, the "Corbies" have inherited their properties from their fathers and grandfathers and live there in summer and at weekends.

Dave Jackson, 46, believes that electricity will change the place for ever. He said: "We have retained a sense of community that seems to go when you introduce televisions, telephones and fax machines. I think electricity will inevitably change the character of the bay. The poles on the headland are disgraceful. They have spoilt the bay."

Joy Mathews adds that the cable is buried further on: "The Haeners paid the money to hide the cable from their own sight, but they would not pay extra to bury the lines across the headland."

At Ethie Haven, Bill Dickson, in his mid-70s, said: "I have been coming here since I was seven years old. Running water never changed us. Inside toilets never changed us. I do not see why electricity should change us.

"I can understand why the Corbies are upset about the poles, but it would have cost about six times as much to bury the cable."

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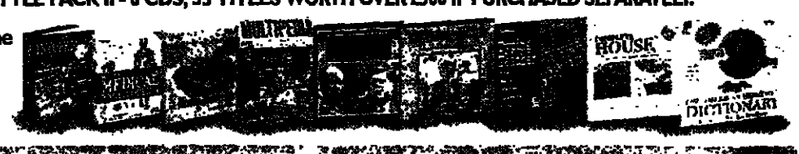
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Boy's skull cracked by concrete thrown at school coach

BY JOANNA BALE AND EMMA WILKINS

A BOY whose skull was fractured when a concrete block was thrown at his school coach was recovering in intensive care yesterday.

Ross Jelf, of West Bromwich, West Midlands, was hurt with his friend Richard Comery, both 14, as they were returning from a school skiing trip to Austria. The coach had just crossed the border into Belgium from Germany. Although Richard suffered leg injuries in the attack, he was well enough to return to his home in Great Bar, Birmingham, where he took part in a Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme walk yesterday.

Ross, who underwent a four-hour operation early on Saturday, is recovering at the Citadelle Hospital in Liège. His parents flew out on Saturday and were at his bedside yesterday. The hospital said that the boy was making a good recovery and could be well enough to be flown home within the next few days.

Tony Comery, Richard's father, said that most of the children in the party of 44 from Dartmouth High School, Sandwell, West Midlands, were asleep when the 11lb concrete slab was thrown on to their coach from a motorway bridge. It smashed through a skylight and hit Ross on the head, showering the other children with shards of glass.

Mr Comery, 46, whose son was treated for his leg injuries at the Herstal Hospital, near Liège, said: "Some youths threw a concrete brick and it went through the skylight of the coach. It bounced off Richard's leg and then hit Ross on the head.

"Many of the children were sleeping at the time and were showered with glass, but according to Richard they were remarkably calm. Richard is home now, but he is very concerned about Ross. He blames himself because he believes Ross would not have been so badly hurt if he had taken the full blow of the block." He said he insisted on going on the Duke of Edinburgh scheme walk.



Watton: drove coach on to hard shoulder

Mr Comery said he had spoken to Ross's parents. "We heard last night that he is OK. He has undergone an operation on his skull to relieve some pressure. It is not life-threatening, but it is serious and we are all concerned about him."

Keith Marsh, the headmaster of Dartmouth High School, who was not on the trip, said the school was saddened by the attack. He said he had spoken to Ross's mother by telephone yesterday morning.

Keith Watton, the coach driver, said: "Richard was not too bad, he was hobbling about, but Ross was in a bad way. It was a nasty cut. Everything was quiet on the bus. The teachers managed to keep the children calm."

He added: "It could have been a lot worse. The concrete slabs could have gone through the windscreen and knocked me out then we would have all been killed."

Mr Watton said: "I had taken over the driving about 40 minutes before. We were cruising along the three-lane motorway looking forward to the breakfast break when it happened. Most of the kids were asleep.

"The motorway was clear and I was going at about 55mph and had just overtaken a lorry and was driving in the slow lane when we approached the bridge.

"I saw the coach driver in front slam on his brakes so I knew something was wrong. Next thing you know I heard this loud bang.

"I just thought one of the side windows had gone through. I slammed on the brakes and pulled on to the hard shoulder. But when I turned round there was glass everywhere and these blocks of concrete all over the coach."

Belgian police said that the accident was caused by a foot-square concrete slab thrown from a bridge 115ft to 130ft above the motorway between Liége and Brussels at 5.30am. A police official said: "If the driver had been hit by the stone, the coach could have hit the barrier or overturned. It could have been a far more serious accident."

The spokesman said that they were treating the incident very seriously with 20 officers working on the case.

A Belgian lorry was slightly damaged by another slab and at least one more was thrown at a second coach. Witnesses said that they saw youths on the bridge at the time of the attack, but by the time police arrived they had disappeared. Rain prevented tracker dogs from picking up their trail, the police official said.



TIM SMITH/GUIZELIAN

Francis Walker with his new guide dog. For nearly two years his wife was too upset to replace the previous one

Owners find pet's passing harder to take than relative's death

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY

VETS are being increasingly called upon to counsel grief-stricken owners when their pets die. The loss of a dog or cat can be more devastating than the death of a friend or relative, the annual congress of the World Small Animal Veterinary Association was told at the weekend.

Janet Thomas, who spoke to delegates in Birmingham on bereavement counselling for pet owners, said that some could still be grieving years after the death. She knew of at least three clients who had committed suicide. On average, bereaved owners took six months to a year to come to terms with their loss.

"With the disappearance of the extended family, we are seeing more single and elderly people living on their own, sometimes not even knowing who their next-door neighbour is," Mrs Thomas said. "For such people a companion animal is often a lifeline, offering a kind of idealised human relationship."

Ms Thomas, a vet at Oldham, Lancashire, began studying the subject after seeing men break down in her consulting rooms. "I found this difficult to handle," she said. "Yet these were men who probably would not have been so openly emotional about the death of another human being.

"This was something for which my veterinary training had not prepared me in any way. Bereavement counselling still has no place in the undergraduate curriculum at veterinary schools.

"The lack of any funeral procedure or other accepted ritual for formally marking the end of a pet's life, often with no grave or known resting-ground, deepens the sense of loss." Deciding to have a sick pet put down could be particularly traumatic. "I have heard clients use the word murder. Feelings of guilt can be profound and vets can cause huge distress by unintentionally insensitive or flippant-sounding remarks."

Vets could help by being good listeners. "A lot of it is simply not being embarrassed or shocked — for example, by people disclosing that they sleep with a dead pet's ashes under the pillow or keep its body in the deep freeze."

Greta Walker, 71, was devastated when her blind husband's guidedog, a golden retriever called Ellis, had to be put down because of ill-health four years ago. It was 20 months before she could bring herself to get a replacement, even though her husband, Francis, badly needed one. "I cried an awful lot and felt deeply depressed," she said. "Just looking at a photograph, or meeting people in the street who asked me where Ellis was, would be enough to set me off."

She was helped by Maureen Hennis, one of eight voluntary bereavement counsellers working for Pro Dogs, a charity based at Aylesford, Kent. Mr and Mrs Walker now have a good relationship with a new guidedog, Lincoln.

Mrs Hennis said: "I get about five or six calls a week from people from all over the country. Having to put a sick animal to sleep is undoubtedly one of the most stressful situations. Owners can feel desperately guilty. I try to help them by getting them to accept euthanasia as their last act of love for their pets."

Man on murder charge missing

BY RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

A MAN accused of murder was on the run last night after police officers failed to notice that he had not reported to them under his bail conditions for almost three months.

Two officers face disciplinary action over the disappearance of the man, who had been ordered to check in daily at Skipton police station in North Yorkshire.

The man was given bail last September, and was the only person reporting to Skipton police station. He last checked in on January 13, but was found to have jumped bail only when he failed to turn up for a doctor's appointment last month. The doctor informed his solicitor who alerted police at Skipton.

Judge Walsh, Recorder of Leeds, ordered Superintendent Ron Underhill, officer in charge at Skipton, to Leeds Crown Court to explain what had happened. He told the police officer: "I regard this as a serious matter. This was a man who was granted bail because the circumstances warranted it. I would have thought that if the police officers took their duties seriously — knowing that the man was on bail for murder — with strict conditions, as soon as he broke those reporting conditions they would have notified their superiors who would have notified the Crown Prosecution Service."

Judge Walsh directed that the suspect's identity or details of the case should not be disclosed in order to ensure a fair trial.

He added that the public should not be alarmed about the man's disappearance. "All I can say is that I profoundly hope that the police repair the damage, and speedily," he said.

Mr Underhill told the judge that he had no plausible explanation for what had happened.

Hopes of dinosaur clone face extinction

BY NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

HOPES of reconstructing dinosaurs from DNA preserved in amber are likely to remain science fiction, researchers at the Natural History Museum in London have shown. The method inspired the film *Jurassic Park*, in which scientists recreated the dinosaurs from fragments of DNA preserved in the stomachs of blood-sucking insects.

There have been claims that DNA has been recovered from insects tens of millions of years old preserved in amber, the fossilised resin of trees. But a team from the museum is soon to report that its efforts to repeat these observations have failed.

Taking precautions against contamination and using a range of methods, Dr Jeremy Austin and colleagues have tried to detect DNA from bees several thousand years old preserved in resin, and from bees 30 million years old preserved in the amber eventually produced by the resin. They will report in *Proceedings of the Royal Society* that the only DNA they have found is of fungal or human origin. No trace of the original bee DNA remains. Amber is permeable to gases and some liquids, making it unable to keep the DNA intact. The museum's result is in contrast with some widely-publicised claims from other researchers, including George Poinar of the University of California at Berkeley, the original inspiration for Michael Crichton's novel *Jurassic Park*. In 1993 Professor Poinar reported finding beetle DNA from a specimen 125 million years old. DNA has also been reported from a magnolia leaf 17 million years old, and from a termite 25 million years old.



Jurassic Park is still only science fiction

With a technique called polymerase chain reaction, minute fragments of DNA can be multiplied until they reach detectable size. The trouble is that any trace of contamination, such as a flake of skin, is also multiplied and can produce a false result.

The museum's findings will disappoint many scientists, not because they expected to reconstruct dinosaurs, but because they hoped that studying ancient DNA would be useful in understanding relationships between living groups of animals.

Greek snails in olive oil the long-life recipe



MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

THE large southern Greek snail contains the most health-giving fats in just the correct proportions, and its regular consumption, after being cooked in olive oil, may be one of many factors that makes Cretans the longest-living people in Europe.

Doctors discussing 50 years of research into the Mediterranean diet have been told that the average family in Crete, where they are meeting, still eat snails cooked in olive oil three times a week.

In southern Greece olive oil is used plentifully in cooking, and olives are eaten with plenty of rough bread, a wide variety of green vegetables and fruits as well as fish, cheese, mutton and red wine.

During the Second World War, when rationing restricted people's choice of food, a marked reduction in heart disease in Europe was noted. In consequence, in 1947 scientists recruited 10,000 middle-aged men from 16 centres in seven countries to study the relationship between their food, lifestyle and health.

Medical theories are often rediscovered and one of Napoleon's doctors, Professor Corvisart, recommended a diet that is remarkably similar to the one being analysed in Crete this week. Corvisart not only praised the use of olive oil, suggested a reduction in animal fat and the avoidance of "too plentiful a table", but understood the importance of having the opportunity "to satisfy the natural affections" and the virtues of regular exercise.

Samuel Black, an early 19th-century Irish physician in Newry, Co Down, was much influenced by Corvisart's book after his friend, a Mr Carson, collapsed and died while drinking chocolate. At his post-mortem examination Dr Black was surprised to find that Mr Carson's coronary arteries were so calcified that they resembled the stem of a clay pipe. Thereafter, the arteries were prominently displayed in Dr Black's house and acted as a warning to his other friends and patients to follow his advice.

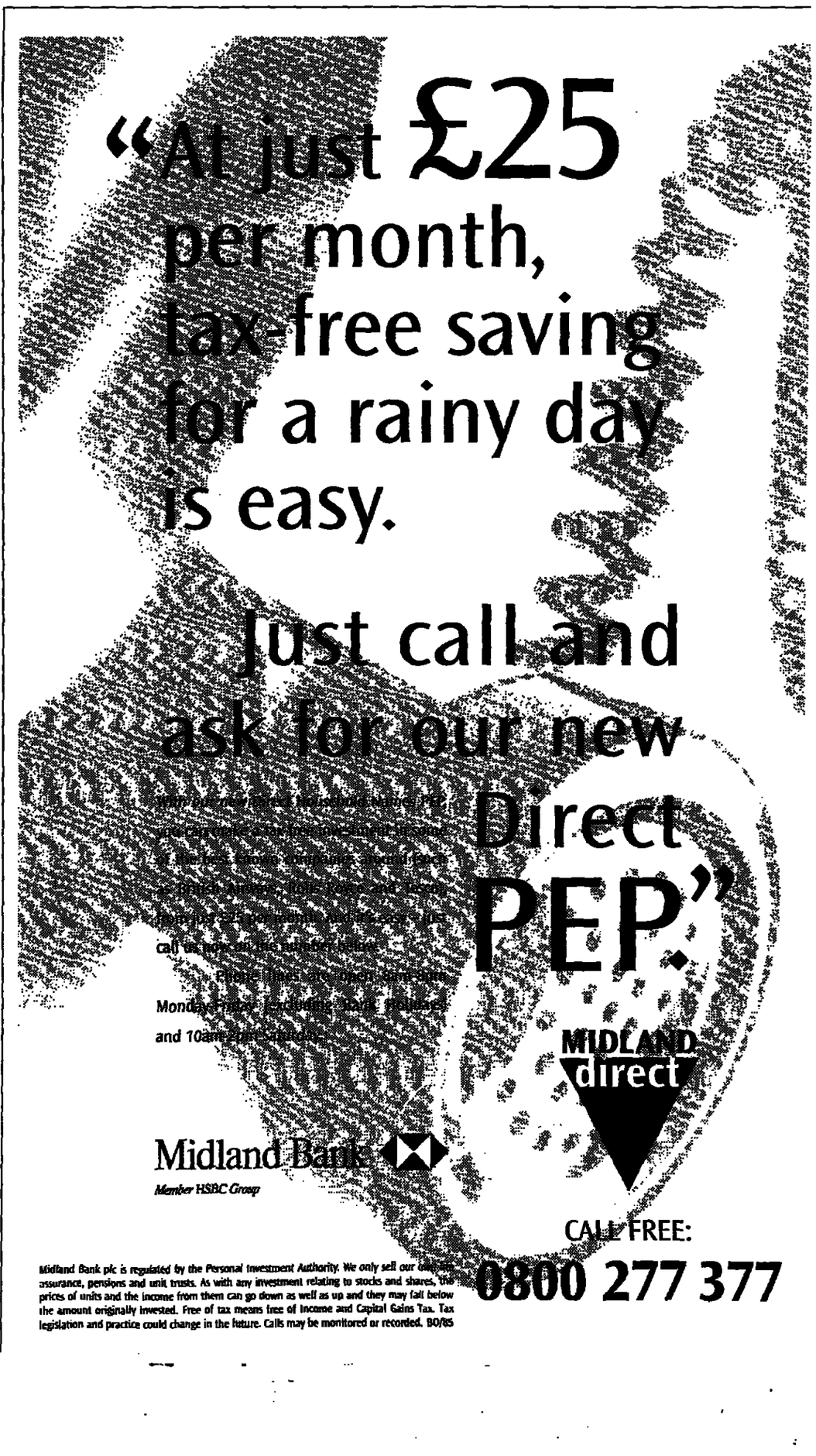
Alun Evans, of Queen's University, Belfast, continues to teach the importance of Dr Black's theories, now suitably modified, and lectured in Crete on the effect on health of the differences in lifestyle in northern and southern Europe.

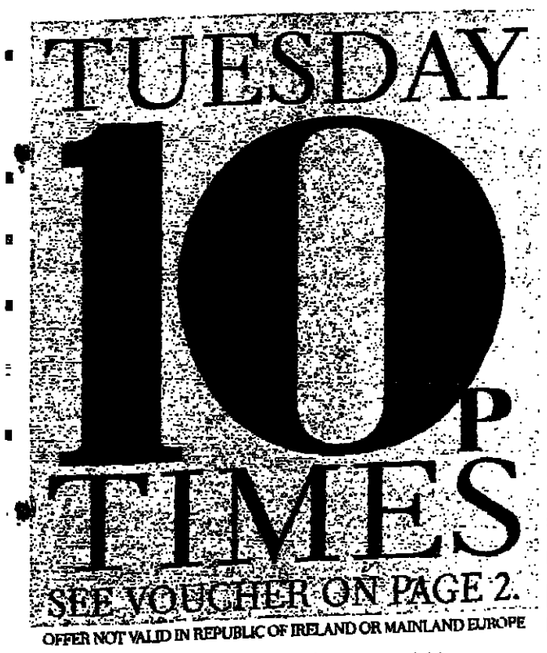
Variations in diet and exercise interact with genetic factors and result in a death rate from heart disease four times greater in Northern Ireland than southern France. There is a fivefold greater likelihood of dying from coronary heart disease in North America or northern Europe than in the southern parts of Europe where the traditional Mediterranean diet is still taken.

The advantages of the liberal use of olive oil to prevent coronary heart disease and cardiac arrhythmias is increasingly well understood. Olive oil is a mono-unsaturated fat, avoiding the problems related to consumption of saturated fats, and it has the advantage that its use for thousands of years has failed to reveal any side-effects.

Professor Evans is keenly interested in the value to health of the natural antioxidants in the Mediterranean such as those found in olives and tomatoes.

The variety of vegetables and fruit eaten in southern Europe also helps to ensure good health: whereas a traditional northern European chooses from about 15 green vegetables, in Crete more than 100 different wild or cultivated plants are still eaten regularly.





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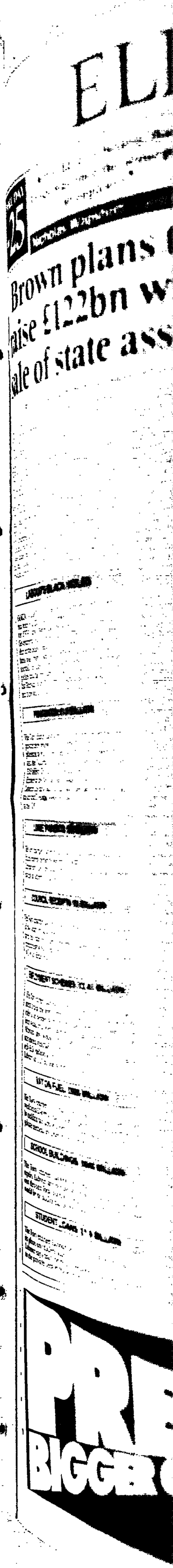
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ELECTION 97

POLL DAY -25

'It is hard to believe that Frosty was once the scourge of wrongdoers'

Nicholas Wapshott – page 11



- One constituency where the election will end tonight - p10
- Constitution hogs Labour's limelight in Scotland. MICHAEL GOVE - p9
- Guide to election issues: foreign policy - p8



'My skeletons are very much out of the cupboard'

Mr Nice – page 11

Brown plans to raise £122bn with sale of state assets

BY JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

GORDON BROWN, the *Shadow Chancellor, yesterday* announced that he was preparing an extensive sell-off of state assets valued at up to £122 billion as Labour finally ditched its historic opposition to privatisation.

Mr Brown said that he would immediately set up a swift inventory of property, land, plan, machinery and other assets held by government departments to root out waste and inefficiency.

His aides also made clear that he would consider any privatisations, including Channel Four, Parcelforce and other Royal Mail agencies, and the National Air Traffic Control system — sell-offs they have previously strongly opposed. London Underground is the only privatisation that would not be an option.

In a final break with the party's former commitment to nationalistion, Tony Blair will say to businessmen today: "Where there is no overriding reason for preferring the public provision of goods and services — particularly where those services operate in a competitive market — then the presumption should be that economic activity is best left to the private sector, with market forces being encouraged to operate."

Mr Blair's speech in the City will underline not only his party's conversion, but his own. In 1986 he said: "Privatisation is destroying the idea of public service in Britain. The interests of consumers are being sacrificed on the altar of big business."

Labour's business manifesto, to be published this week, makes no bones about the Labour leadership's intention. As soon as Labour takes office there would be a comprehensive spending review, matched by a "thorough and speedy national inventory of the assets owned by central government. We will not hold assets that have no further use or allow the wasteful duplication of resources across departments. If there is no need for departments to hold property, land or other assets, they will be required to sell them".

Mr Brown, speaking on BBC Radio 4's *The World This Weekend*, added: "I am certainly going to apply, in the iron grip that we will have on public spending and the use of public resources, a clear test. If it is of no use to the public sector, if there is duplication of resources, we will sort it out."

Mr Brown is already questioning why employment offices, social security offices and regional government offices coexist in some towns and cities. "We are sure that, as well as improving the efficiency with which assets are used and as well as reallocating within departments, we will also be able to release several billion pounds over the lifetime of the next Parliament," Mr Brown's spokesman said.

Labour has been working for the last eight months with a top accountancy firm to assess the use of assets within government departments. Labour sources made clear the review could be used to free resources for front line services, such as teachers and doctors. Aides also made clear that both the Health Department and the Ministry of Defence, which owns vast areas of land, could be the first targets.

But the proposals were sharply attacked by both Liberal Democrats and the Tories. Malcolm Bruce, the Liberal Democrat Treasury spokesman doubted that the selling-off of assets to raise money "on the cheap" was in the interests of the taxpayer.

Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, claimed Labour was now in full retreat. "The revelation shows that our attacks on the $12 billion black hole at the heart of Labour's public expenditure plans have thrown Labour high command into total panic."

Mr Heseltine said Mr Blair's comments signalled the abandoning of "its historic and consistent opposition to privatisation". Mr Blair was "casting aside his principles like ballast from his sinking balloon".

LABOUR'S BLACK HOLES

GORDON BROWN has consistently denied Tory taunts that there is a £12 billion gap between his spending plans for 1997-98 and 1998-99 and those put forward by the Government, (Jill Sherman writes). The Tories have derived the figure, which they have dubbed "the £12 billion black hole" from a number of different areas, including shortfalls in Labour's privatisation receipts, spending pledges and tax cuts. Labour rebutted these claims until last Thursday when Mr Brown admitted for the first time that there was a £1.5 billion gap in his plans for 1998-99.

PRIVATISATION £1.5 BILLION

The Tory charge: Labour faces a £1.5 billion shortfall on privatisation receipts in year two, 1998-99. The Tories are planning to sell off some unspecified Next Step agencies and the National Air Traffic Control, which would raise £0.5 billion. They also plan to raise £480 million on private finance in the NHS and claim Labour is not.
Labour: the party says it would now consider privatising the air traffic control system and will keep private finance in the NHS.

LONE PARENTS £60 MILLION

The Tory charge: Labour has said it would repeal cutbacks in lone parent benefits worth £60 million.
Labour: now says its will keep the cuts, unless it can make savings in other social security areas.

COUNCIL RECEIPTS £2 BILLION

The Tory charge: Labour would spend £2.5 billion in each of two years by allowing local councils to spend receipts from the sale of council houses. Labour says that the commitment would only cost £1billion, will be phased and will be self-financed.

EMPLOYMENT SCHEMES £2.2 BILLION

The Tory charge: Labour's plans to end youth unemployment, to help the long-term jobless and to change benefit rules to let people work more hours before losing State help, would cost over £1.6 billion in each of the two years. Although this would be offset by Labour's plans to introduce a windfall tax, the Tories say this would bring in only £600 million a year.
Labour: says £3 billion windfall tax would cover the costs.

VAT ON FUEL £340 MILLION

The Tory charge: VAT cut from 8 per cent to 5 per cent would cost £340m a year. Labour say this would be paid for by tackling tax abuse loopholes, and ending tax relief on private medical insurance for over-60s.

SCHOOL BUILDINGS £640 MILLION

The Tory charge: Labour to spend £640m on school repairs. Labour says private sector would bear some of the cost through local authority partnership rules and there would be no additional public spending.

STUDENT LOANS £1.9 BILLION

The Tory charge: Labour faces a £1.9 billion shortfall from its plans on student loans.
Labour: says that the risk of lending should be transferred to the private sector but gives no figure on cost.



TONY HARRIS

John Major bids Baroness Thatcher farewell yesterday as she leaves Conservative Central Office in London

Lady Thatcher pays tribute to Major's 'magnificent years'

BY PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR

BARONESS THATCHER delivered her strongest tribute to John Major yesterday, praising his "magnificent stewardship" of the past six years.

She told 300 Conservative candidates and MPs at Conservative Central Office in London that it was thanks to Mr Major and the Government "that we have such a high level of prosperity and a high reputation in the world". She said: "I am here to support him."

Lady Thatcher, who in private over the years has been less than enthusiastic about her successor, appeared determined to kill any suggestions that she would be happy if Tony Blair reached Downing Street. She spoke of a return to trade union "bully boys" and the handover of Parliament's powers to Brussels if Labour won power.

Lady Thatcher said that Britain's prosperity and its high reputation "didn't just happen". "We Conservatives made it happen. The Conservatives have convictions, fundamental beliefs to serve the people and to create a framework of law within which enterprise and responsibility can flourish."

Her warmth for Mr Major was clear. But it was plain that she was also motivated by a desire to protect her legacy. She said it was because of the Conservatives' beliefs that the party was able to cut taxation so that people kept more of their money to spend on their families.

She added: "We cut the power of the trade unions and most of the trade unionists were with us. It was only the bully boys who fought against it. We privatised industries because governments do not know how to run them. Only industry knows that. And we fought communism and together with the USA we brought it down. It was all because of our convictions, and we had no fellow travellers in the Labour Party."

She spoke of Labour's "conversion of convenience", but said that "whatever the soft words, Labour is still interventionist in its very psyche". She attacked Gordon Brown's plan to bring in a windfall tax on the privatised utilities, describing it as "a tax on success", which would take away money that could be used for capital investment.

She described Mr Blair's plan to sign Britain up to the European Union Social Chapter as socialism by the back door. "The Social Chapter is a way of imposing the socialist model on this country. If there isn't socialism through the front door, it will come through the back door. We would suffer every single regulation that the European socialist bureaucracy would wish if Labour was allowed to get its way. Even now they are discussing how to increase majority voting and reduce the power of the veto."

Lady Thatcher added: "In the next three months the destiny of our country will be set for a decade or longer because of the inter-governmental conference in Amsterdam. They will try to take away the veto; that is why we must see our Prime Minister John Major and our Government returned at this election, so that there can be no diminishing power of the nation state."

Youth vote impressed by image above ability

BY JEREMY LAURANCE

POLITICIANS seeking the youth vote should smarten their image instead of worrying about their manifestos, according to psychologists. Young voters rate integrity and charisma as the most important qualities in a political leader and place less value on their competence.

Professor Mark Pancer and his colleagues, of Wilfrid Laurier University, Ontario, say that personalities count for more than policies in an election. The researchers compared the attitudes of three groups of students from Canada, America and Britain to 15 national and international political and public figures. The students were asked to rate each figure on a set of 40 characteristics grouped into four categories of integrity, charisma, competence and strength.

The study, carried out in 1993, showed that John Major was ranked lower for charisma than any other national or international political or public figure. His score of 2.31 fell below that of Prince Charles at 2.67. The highest score awarded by the British voters, 3.59, was held jointly by President Clinton and the pop star Madonna.

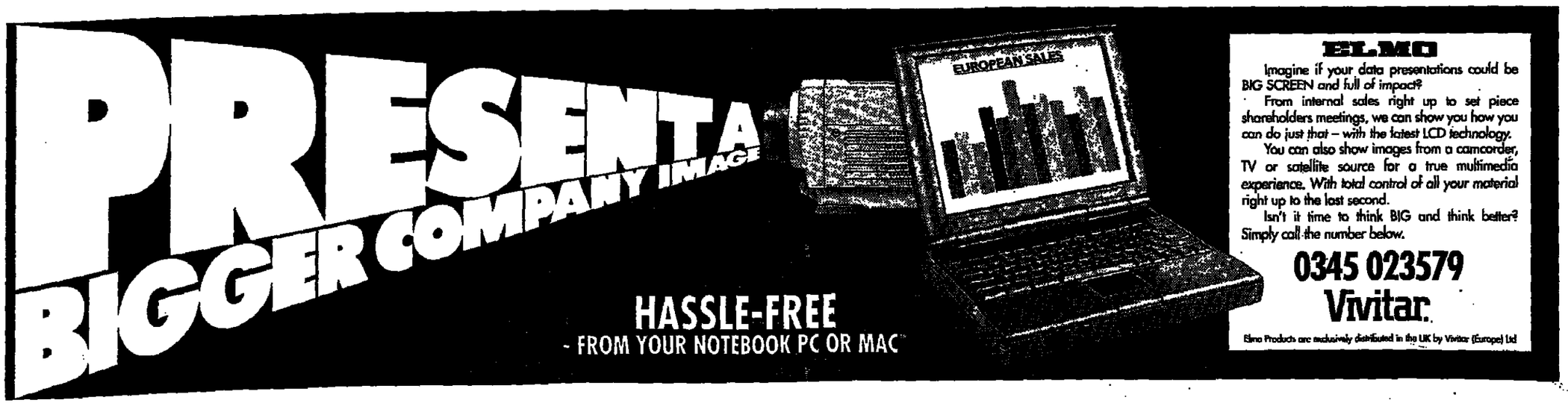
On integrity, the highest rating from the British group went to John Smith, then leader of the Labour Party. Baroness Thatcher was rated highest on strength and competence, closely followed by Boris Yeltsin. The students were also asked to rate their overall impression of each leader or public figure on a "feeling thermometer" by giving them a score out of 100. The students were told that a score above 50 indicated warm feelings while below 50 indicated coolness.

British voters judged both national and world leaders more harshly than either their American or Canadian counterparts. No public figure scored over 50 in Britain compared with four who exceeded this score in both America and Canada.

The findings, presented to the British Psychological Society's conference in Edinburgh yesterday, showed that integrity was the most important determinant of voters' overall feelings. Although Lady Thatcher scored highly on strength and competence, she was ranked lowest overall.

Professor Pancer said British and American voters appeared not to care whether their politicians could do the job, so long as they were honest. "There doesn't seem to be a very strong relationship between who they see as hard-working, capable and experienced, and who they rate highest overall. Integrity is the most important factor — being honest, caring, trustworthy, and open minded."

Professor Pancer said the findings showed that Mr Major should show leadership and put principles above cronyism. "There is a tremendous concentration on sleaze in this campaign which is a natural outgrowth of the concern with personality. Character attacks are effective. Mud sticks."



BALLOT 97

THE TIMES GUIDE TO ELECTION ISSUES

14. *Foreign policy*

Labour aims to outflank Tories on human rights

FOREIGN policy does not win elections. Unless there is a national humiliation or resounding triumph — Suez or the Falklands — voters rarely focus on the world beyond Britain. While Europe will be covered later in the campaign in an election guide of its own, today's guide focuses on relations with the rest of the world.

Beyond Europe there is little division between the parties. On the broad themes — relations with the United States, arms control, Nato, support for Eastern Europe, the United Nations, the global environment and the expansion of world trade — Labour policy differs only imperceptibly from that of the Conservatives.

Arguments over foreign policy tend to be within parties more than between them, creating unusual alliances. The war in Bosnia was a classic example: support for the Muslims and calls for intervention against the Serbs united many on the Left with those on the Right. Other contentious regional issues — Cyprus, the Arab-Israeli conflict, Kashmir and Hong Kong — divide MPs into cross-party lobby groups bitterly at odds with each other.

There has been little debate about foreign policy in the past five years for two main reasons. Firstly, Douglas Hurd attempted to steer a bipartisan course and was able, with a patrician image and the suggestion that he was a "safe pair of hands", to imply that government policy reflected a national consensus. Europe was the exception. Secondly, Labour gave low priority to a field so barren in opportunities for partisan advantage. Two of Labour's Shadow Foreign Secretaries, Gerald Kaufman and Jack Cunningham, were not party heavyweights and made little public impression.

For almost a year after his appointment, Robin Cook gave every indication that he did not want the job and was itching for a return to the cut-and-thrust of domestic politics. It is only in the past six months, with the apparent inevitability of his move to the Foreign Office, that he has shown mastery of the detail, especially on the imminent issues of Hong Kong and the EU inter-governmental conference.

Mr Hurd hoped to stimulate a national debate in 1995 with the sponsorship of an academic conference on Britain's place in the world. His aim was to identify British

THE POLITICS

diplomatic and global strengths, boost public support for peacekeeping. English language broadcasts and teaching and, more pointedly, send a message to the Treasury that the Foreign Office budget, one of the smallest in Whitehall, could not be cut further without harming Britain's political and commercial interests. But the conference produced little — largely because it was wholly uncontentious.

Labour supports the increasing use of British troops for peacekeeping, the goodwill generated by the British Council and the BBC, and the need for diplomacy to focus on export promotion. It is concentrating its campaign, therefore, on two areas where the Conservative record is weakest: overseas development and human rights. Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, Minister for Overseas Development, has held the same job longer than any other minister, a forceful advocate for Africa and of tying aid to good government.

But under the Conservatives, overseas aid spending has fallen from 0.51 per cent of GNP to an all-time low of 0.29 per cent. Labour promises to raise this amount to 0.7 per cent, the target set by the United Nations. It also promises to recreate a separate Cabinet-level Ministry of International Development, and to target aid to the world's poorest nations. It criticises especially the funnelling of aid to wealthier nations, and the Government's actions over the Pergau dam in Malaysia as an illegal linking of aid to trade. On human rights, Labour also intends to take a more robust line. The Conservatives have strongly criticised abuses in Nigeria, Burma and China.

But Mr Cook has promised to recommend full oil sanctions against the military regime in Nigeria and intends to make human rights a more decisive yardstick in dealing with other countries. The obvious targets are the sheikhdoms of the Gulf, where Labour believes that Britain has turned a blind eye to abuses in order to safeguard lucrative contracts. Whether Labour would risk offending Saudi Arabia and jeopardising huge arms exports remains unclear.

In several areas Labour intends to outflank the Conservatives by emphasising support for causes that have languished under the Tories. Mr Cook insists he will increase support for the British Council and the BBC World Service, though no budget figures are given. A more emotional issue is the Commonwealth. Labour believes that the Conservatives were so antagonised by Commonwealth opposition to British policy towards apartheid South Africa that they have since written off this 53-nation body.

Labour promises to do more to revive political and economic links, use the Commonwealth to advance Third World interests and show greater solidarity with Commonwealth members at the United Nations, also a body it accuses the Conservatives of neglecting.

Leading article, page xx

Two views of Britain's place in the world



Britain's swift offer of troops for Bosnia gave it a vital role in resolving the conflict, with lasting political implications

THE POLITICS

FOR the past 18 years Britain has consistently "punched above its weight", the Conservatives claim. The turning point, they insist, was the 1982 Falklands War. This not only won Britain global military and political credibility but also engaged Margaret Thatcher's interest in foreign affairs for the first time.

The claim is based largely on the extraordinary set of circumstances in the 1980s that gave Britain a unique influence in Washington at a time when West Germany had limited room for manoeuvre and France still dreamed of an independent world role.

Lady Thatcher forged a particularly close relationship with President Reagan — so much so that she was able to influence his decisions on arms control, East-West diplomacy and Nato strategy. The Gulf War reinforced this, with British participation vital. The strong links continued under President Bush and John Major. They ended abruptly with the election of President Clinton, who made little secret of his dislike of Mr Major.

After the cataclysmic collapse of communism, the fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of the Cold War, the world has been relatively peaceful. Nelson Mandela was elected President of South Africa; Israel and the Palestinians signed the Oslo accords; Cambodia negotiated a peace settlement; and democracy was consolidated in Latin America and much of Eastern Europe. But one intractable issue dominated British foreign policy and preoccupied the Western alliance: the war in Bosnia.

When fighting began in 1992, Britain's swift offer of troops and visible involvement in the humanitarian convoys established its vital role in the international response. Britain and France, with the largest troop contingents, began a period of military co-operation, with lasting political and military implications. From the start, Douglas Hurd, then Foreign Secretary, was determined that Britain would not be sucked into the hostilities: he sensed there was no public support for intervention, despite revulsion at the pictures of ethnic cleansing and Serb ill-treatment of Bosnian Muslims.

Denouncing the "something-must-be-done" clamour for an interventionist role for the United Nations troops, he was also adamant that any lifting of the arms embargo would only fuel more savage fighting and make the UN forces targets for Bosnian Serb fighters. He would not, he famously remarked, tolerate a "level killing field".

His stand, shared by the European allies — though opposed by Lady Thatcher, now out of office, who called for a sharp military response — brought Britain into conflict with the Clinton Administration, which wanted to arm the mainly Muslim Bosnian Government. One of the most serious transatlantic disputes since Suez developed. Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, tried in vain to change European opinion; the rift soured relations between Britain and America and exacerbated reports that the Clinton Administration had not forgiven Mr Major his apparent backing for George Bush during the 1992 presidential election campaign.

Bosnia highlighted two other preoccupations of Western policy: establishing a co-operative relationship with Russia, and formulating a new role for Nato. Britain has taken a lead in encouraging market reform in Russia: for the Conservatives, the Russians' admiration for Lady Thatcher and their readiness to begin huge privatisation programmes were an opportunity to demonstrate Britain's pioneering experience. The Know-How Fund set a pattern as one of the more successful ways of helping post-communist economies. Labour supported the outreach to Russia.

All the main parties in Britain agree on the need to retain Nato as a lynchpin of American involvement in Europe; all agree that the alliance must remain to prevent the re-emergence of separate national defence policies in the West. But neither Labour nor the Liberal Democrats pushed for a public debate on Nato's changed military priorities; nor did they challenge the Government's unquestioning acceptance three years ago of the American call for Nato enlargement — despite strong private reservations within all parties at the time.

The Government claimed some credit for two other momentous changes since 1992: the end of apartheid and the tentative steps towards Middle East peace. The Thatcher governments always insisted that dialogue, rather than sanctions, would give Britain greater influence in Pretoria; certainly the British Embassy was important in encouraging the contacts between President de Klerk and Nelson Mandela. Labour consistently called for tougher sanctions; but with the end of apartheid and the election of President Mandela the evidence was equivocal on which approach had been the most effective.

The Middle East, an area of traditional British influence, saw the signing of peace accords between Israel, under the Government of Yitzhak Rabin, who was assassinated in 1995, and the Palestine Liberation Organisation. Israel subsequently withdrew from certain occupied territory, and its relations with Jordan were normalised. America and Norway played the leading outside roles in the peace process; but Britain maintained close contact with all sides and offered extensive aid and training to the Palestinians. In the Gulf, it remained one of the main supporters and trading partners of the traditional rulers and an implacable foe of any softening of sanctions against Iraq.

Little of this was domestically contentious. But the Government was caught unawares by the sudden emergence of London as a haven for Islamic radicals expelled by conservative Arab governments, many of them closely tied to Britain. The case that caused greatest embarrassment was that of Muhammad al-Masari, a Saudi radical. In response to a furious Saudi reaction, the Home Office attempted, in vain, to deport him. The issue was seized on by Labour as an indication that Britain's policy towards the Gulf was too craven and too driven by arms exports.

The Government was equally embarrassed by the row over the Pergau Dam, a large aid project in Malaysia where the Government was accused of illegally using trade promotion money to finance the project. A court ruled against Mr Hurd; and Pergau became a symbol for the Opposition of a general Conservative mismanagement of overseas aid.

The Conservatives insist that "punching above our weight", in Mr Hurd's words, will remain valid as long as Britain retains its UN Security Council seat and readiness to contribute forces to UN peacekeeping. Labour does not deny the advantage of a strong foreign policy, insisting that it too gave unanimous support to the Falklands and Gulf wars, to German unification, democracy in Russia and to all the areas where Britain's influence was crucial.

Both Labour and the Liberal Democrats, however, accuse the Government of hypocrisy in trying to maintain a global foreign policy while cutting the Foreign Office budget. The past five years have been hard: jobs have been pared, embassies shut and funds reduced for aid; culture and overseas broadcasting.

Labour and the Liberal Democrats insist that Britain must cut its coat according to its cloth. There must be no more delusions that, isolated in Europe, it can play the bridge between America and the Continent, or maintain a global role without closer integration of foreign and defence policy with its European partners. The Tories disagree. As with so much, Britain's place in the world will be largely determined by Britain's place in Europe.

THE POLITICIANS

■ MALCOLM RIFKIND



Age: 50

Education: George Watson's College, University of Edinburgh.
Family: married, one son, one daughter.
Experience: QC, MP for Edinburgh Pentlands since 1974. Foreign Secretary since 95. Parliamentary Undersecretary at Scottish Office, 79-82; Minister of State at Foreign Office, 83-86; Scottish Secretary 86-90; Transport Secretary 90-92; Defence Secretary, 92-95.
Politics: determinedly centrist, having moved to Right from earlier Euro-enthusiasm. Ambitious and now positioning himself as compromise party leader.
Performance: knowledgeable, effective and able speaker. Sometimes aloof.

■ ROBIN COOK



Age: 51

Education: Aberdeen Grammar, Royal High School, Edinburgh, University of Edinburgh.
Family: married, two sons.
Experience: MP for Livingston since 1983, MP for Edinburgh Central 74-83. Shadow Foreign Secretary since 94. Previously Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, 92-94; Shadow Health and Social Services Secretary 87-92. A member of Labour's National Executive Committee and its National Policy Forum.
Politics: on Left but committed moderniser. Long-time rival of Gordon Brown.
Performance: one of best orators in the House. Combative and partisan.

WHAT THEY SAID

We have not been, and are not, willing to begin some form of military intervention which we judge useless or worse, simply because of pressures from the media.
Douglas Hurd, on Bosnia, 1993

What we cannot do, we should not pretend to do. It is empty to pretend that we can impose peace with justice on every disorder or dispute outside our national borders. But what we decide to do, we must do well.
John Major, 1993

We have our laws and we have a tradition of free speech, but what we do not have, and what we repudiate, is any tradition of encouraging terrorism.
Douglas Hurd on granting asylum to Islamic radicals, 1994

No substitute has been found for the energy which wells up through the nation state.
Douglas Hurd, 1995

We must be active wherever our national interests are at stake; and they are at stake throughout the world.
Malcolm Rifkind, 1995

The partnership of Europe and America working together delivers results, diplomatic and military. Any arrangements we devise for the future must reflect that.
Malcolm Rifkind, 1996

We commit to peace support and humanitarian operations, even in places far from home, for simple and yet fundamental reasons. We are a civilised nation.
Michael Portillo, 2 Jan 1997

THE FACTS

☐ Britain has 215 overseas embassies and consulates, compared with Germany with 240, Italy with 253 and France with 286.

☐ Running the Foreign Office costs £1.3 billion a year, half of which is spent on the British Council, the BBC World Service, the United Nations and peacekeeping.

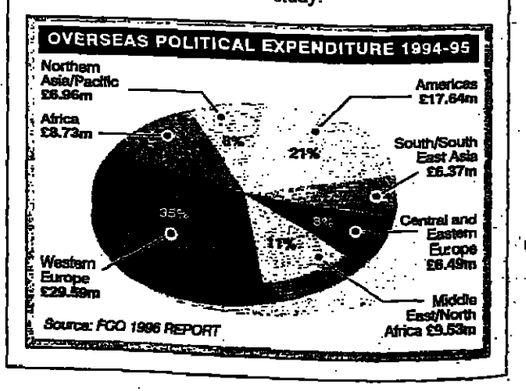
☐ Some 8.6 million British citizens live overseas, and 34 million travel abroad. Britain ranks fifth for international trade, and exports are worth more per head than those of the United States or Japan. Britain exports a quarter of all it produces.

☐ Britain's stock of direct foreign investment is second only to America's, and is twice as large, relative to GDP, as Germany's or Japan's.

☐ English is the native language of 350 million people. It has official status in 70 countries, and 60 per cent of all scientists speak it.

☐ The estimate for the total number of applications for visas to enter Britain in 1996 was almost 1.5 million, an increase of more than 17 per cent over 1995. Some 95 per cent of these applications are for tourist visits or study.

OVERSEAS POLITICAL EXPENDITURE 1994-95



CONSERVATIVES



Hong Kong: backing for Chris Patten's democracy reforms. Warning to China that Britain will continue to monitor human rights and Chinese compliance with 1984 Joint Declaration after handover in July.

Peace-keeping: British successes to be emphasised, though opposition to new UN operations without finance or exit strategy.

Nato enlargement: strong support for enlargement, but emphasis on successful negotiation of Nato-Russia agreement.

Relations with America: bedrock of foreign policy. Will attempt to make relations less dependent on Nato with new free trade agreement and parliamentary assembly.

Aid and development: opposition to increase in multilateral aid at the expense of bilateral aid. Aid budget unlikely to increase; assistance to be tied to "good government". Will continue the Know-How Fund for former communist countries.

Human rights: support for Iraqi, Burmese and Nigerian opposition, but not emphasised in campaign. Wary about extending Nigerian sanctions, but no let-up in Iraq.

Diplomatic service: commitment to service at present level, though retrenchment likely in Africa and more trade promotion in Latin America and South East Asia. Will support British Council and BBC World Service, but search for private funding to make up for likely further cuts.

LABOUR



Hong Kong: as strongly committed to human rights as the Tories. A Labour government would have responsibility for the last two months of British rule. Relations with China are seen as a challenge.

Peace-keeping: commitment to support UN operations with troops. But will insist that Britain should not take on more than its size allows. Promise to review arms exports.

Nato enlargement: Labour cautious, but strongly supports integration of Eastern Europe in EU.

Relations with America: Blair-Clinton chemistry likely to be better than present relations with Tories, with consequent close political links.

Aid and development: to have much higher profile, with Overseas Development Administration transformed into Department of International Development headed by Cabinet minister. Calls for new focus on poorest countries, and commitment to raise percentage of GNP spent on aid from 0.29 to 0.7, the UN target. Less attention to richer countries, and review of links between aid and trade.

Human Rights: main policy difference with Tories. Tougher line towards all rogue regimes. Will call for oil sanctions against Nigeria.

Diplomatic service: more emphasis on export promotion; top businessmen may be appointed ambassadors in growing markets. Commitment to boost British Council and BBC World Service, but no budget promises.

LIBERAL DEMOCRATS



Hong Kong: policy little different from Labour's and Conservatives'. Urging all remaining colonies to seek regional co-operation.

Peace-keeping: activist role proposed, and more co-operation with European nations. Failure to intervene earlier in Bosnia condemned. Curbs proposed on arms exports, and long-term cut in defence budget.

Nato enlargement: lukewarm support and only on condition that it fits with EU enlargement. Seen as less important than reshaping Nato and OSCE. Greater role proposed for European Nato operations as part of common European foreign policy.

Relations with America: central, but less emphasis on working with Washington and more on co-operation with European partners.

Aid and development: important plank of policy. More co-ordination with EU projects. Strong support for Know-How Fund, and commitment to bringing British aid up to UN target of 0.7 per cent of GNP. Greater targeting of aid to poorest countries.

Human rights: traditional strong interest. Support for democracy activists in East Timor, the Gulf, Nigeria etc. Emphasis on emancipation of women around the world.

Diplomatic service: attempt to restore some of the cuts in Foreign Office budget. Promise to support British Council and BBC World Service.

Scots Tories' travails provide portent of wider strife



Current political conflicts *north of the border could* turn out to be a dress rehearsal for a UK-wide drama, *writes* **Michael Gove**

IF YOU want to know what life will be like in Blair's Britain, read the newspaper reports from Scotland. As one Scots émigré remarked: "We have seen the future and it's tartan."

The election of a Labour government could see the dramas that have convulsed Scotland over the past fortnight played out across the United Kingdom. It is often said, north of the border, that a very different election campaign is going on, but when you talk to Scotish voters and watch politicians on the stump in Scotland, the sense is not so much of a foreign country but of the future.

A rump Conservative Party cannot unite behind an effective leader called Michael — in this case, Forsyth — because of vicious feuding. A dominant Labour Party faces mutiny on the Left and unrest among activists. And the voters are denied a debate on bread-and-butter issues because the intricacies of devolution dominate the headlines.

When Tony Blair came to Glasgow on Friday to launch his party's Scottish manifesto, he expressed exasperation that the press conference was dominated by constitutional matters. All but one of the journalists' questions turned on the powers of a body which does not yet exist — the Scottish parliament. The volume and vehemence of the questions, which quite unsettled Mr Blair, were evidence not of a strange obsession on the part of the Scottish media but rather of the journalistic instinct for the jugular. In a *Scotsman* interview, Mr Blair had appeared to compare a Scottish parliament to a parish council, and the pack scented blood. Some of the most direct questions came from representatives of the London media. They were not concerned with the intricacies of sovereignty but they did know when a politician appeared to be on weak ground.

Mr Blair had cause to feel aggrieved. The electorate in Scotland, like the rest of the United Kingdom are more concerned with health, crime and the economy than the constitution.

However, the importance of the constitution in this election is a consequence of Labour policy. If devolution proposals had not been so vigorously promoted by Labour and then redefined to rid them of supposed weaknesses, there would be room to concentrate on other issues. But, given how uncomfortable Mr Blair seems with the issue, it is natural for journalists, and voters to ask why.

Mr Blair's annoyance at the crowding out of other issues is not likely to abate if Labour are elected. With pledges to legislate for referendums on devolution, the consequent long campaigns and then more legislation to actually introduce assemblies, constitutional reform will dominate Labour's first year. Voters anxious to see progress in other areas will find parliamentary time dominated by arcane disputes about the West Lothian Question and the revised Goschen-Barnett block grant formula.

One English Labour frontbencher commented even before last week's controversy: "We'll have new Labour MPs elected in marginals like Worcester keen to deliver for the people who voted for them and their time will be taken up legislating for Scotland and Wales."

It is not only in England that disquiet might surface. Some Scottish Labour MPs now remain disciplined and quiet but privately promise to agitate for maximum power for the Scottish parliament after the election.

The Tories foresee that defeat would offer the opportunity to divert the Labour government's attention from other matters. Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade and MP for Galloway and Upper Nithsdale, has invited Labour to "make my day," by introducing complex devolution legislation in the first session of the new parliament.



Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, and Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, who clashed in the months preceding Margaret Thatcher's fall

But the Conservatives have their own troubles. The scandals that have afflicted the Scottish party with one MP resigning after disclosures of alcohol problems and a relationship with a woman, as well as their chairman quitting after an alleged homosexual "indiscretion" have been depicted by some as a peculiarly Caledonian affair. The Scots Tories' problems are not, however, evidence of Celtic fondness for a feud. Rather, they are the consequence of minority status and the psychology of defeat.

The battles between the Thatcherite Forsyth and the moderate Malcolm Rifkind in late 1989 and early 1990, were the prelude to the *Götterdämmerung* of Mrs Thatcher's rule. Now, according to one veteran of those conflicts, the current warfare in the Scots Tories, with colleagues briefing against each other, is a portent of what will happen to the party across the United Kingdom in the event of defeat.

Some Tories see glimmers of hope. The same old hand believes that Mr Forsyth's ability to provide the Scots Tories with a degree of campaigning coherence could show the way for the rest of the party.

Former pro-devolution dissidents, such as the Scots Tory candidate in Dumfries, Struan Stevenson are now diehards for the Union. Once a party has faced defeat, the hope is that talented figures may be less likely to pursue freelance policies if given a strong lead from the top.

One Cabinet minister recently confided his fear that at a time when the United Kingdom had at last become a successful brand name in the increasingly competitive global market, the country was preparing to indulge in an unnecessary and introspective debate about restructuring.

His worries about introspection may apply with even greater force to his own party in the event of defeat. Variants of the internal battles now being fought on Scottish turf could consume the entire Conservative Party.

Ashdown says spin is killing real issues

BY POLLY NEWTON

LABOUR and Conservative policies are being dictated by "spin doctors" purely to woo certain groups of voters, according to Paddy Ashdown, leader of the Liberal Democrats. Mr Ashdown will say in a speech tomorrow night that the beliefs of the two parties' leaders no longer count.

He will claim that the focus on a relatively small number of potential "switchers" — voters who supported the Conservatives in 1992 but may back Labour this time — effectively puts the spin doctors in charge. A source close to Mr Ashdown said last night that the Liberal Democrat leader believed vision and principles should be paramount in any political campaign. But, he said: "The key person now is the political 'mechanic' — the person behind the scenes who knows what issues have to be addressed to switch key voters. That has become a problem. Everyone has become so obsessed with what focus groups are telling them."

Although the Liberal Democrats have made no secret of their decision to concentrate their limited campaign resources on seats they believe they can win, a party spokesman said that was not the same as tailoring policies to particular sets of voters.

Mr Ashdown will argue that there is a danger of politicians ignoring serious issues, and large sections of society, because they are told by their spin doctors that they offer no electoral advantage.

He will say that the Liberal Democrats are prepared to look to the long term rather than attempting to achieve short-term gains by espousing policies dreamed up specifically to attract support from target groups.

Peter Stothard, page 20

NEWS IN BRIEF

Labour MP forced out by illness

Labour MP William McKelvey, 62, has announced he will not be standing for re-election to the Kilmarnock and Loudoun seat in Ayrshire. He confirmed yesterday that a sudden health problem had persuaded him *reluctantly to stand down*.

He is thought to have been *taken ill while canvassing* last Wednesday. The constituency is a target seat for the Scottish National Party. Mr McKelvey saw Labour's majority halved by the SNP to just under 7,000 in 1992.

Game target

Owners of shooting and fishing estates, including the Queen, could be affected by new taxes under a Labour government. The party is considering *reintroducing sporting* rates — duties on game, stags and fish shot or caught on their land — across Britain. The move would be worth £10 million to the Treasury.

Knighthood row

Sir Michael Grylls, who is not seeking re-election as MP for Surrey North West, denied he acted improperly by seeking a knighthood for Jeffrey Whalley, a major donor to the Tory party. He did so at the request of a lobbyist, Derek Laud. Sir Michael has admitted misleading Parliament over his payments from Ian Greer.

Dealers warned

This could be the first general election in which City traders who spread false rumours about opinion poll results are *detected and prosecuted*. Bob Worcester, chairman of *MORI*, says it is "outrageous" that the markets have been manipulated in previous elections, and believes the technology exists to locate the source of rumours.

Jobs report timing upsets churchmen

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

SENIOR Anglican church leaders are concerned that a sensitive church inquiry into unemployment has been timed deliberately to create maximum impact in the election campaign.

The report, *Unemployment and the Future of Work*, to be published tomorrow by the Council of Churches for Britain and Ireland as a result of an 18-month inquiry led by the Right Rev David Sheppard, Bishop of Liverpool, is a damaging attack on 18 years of Conservative rule. It calls for a statutory minimum wage and negotiating rights for trade unions.

But, although Christian socialist in tone, it also contains criticisms of the Labour Party's reluctance to embrace the harsh reality of higher taxation if public services are to be improved. According to one source, some church leaders are annoyed at the timing of the report because of the impact it will have on the election campaign. "It is a theological reflection on urban problems, and particularly on unemployment, but there are no easy answers to these," said the source.

Although an October publication date had been considered, April was chosen because it was felt that it would result in maximum publicity. The report, backed by leaders of the 12 main denominations in Britain, has been strongly influenced by Church Action on Poverty, an ecumenical pressure group which recruited long-term unemployed people and submitted a lengthy paper based on their discussions.

Niall Cooper, national coordinator of Church Action on Poverty, said: "It is critical of all political parties. None is seriously addressing the issue of unemployment. They are more concerned with tax reductions. The report will talk about taxation as a positive social good."

Sponsors include the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey and Cardinal Basil Hume, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Westminster.

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Tories accuse Labour of five serious U-turns since start of campaign

Philip Webster gives his assessment of the claims made by the Tories yesterday that Labour has made five separate policy reversals since the start of the campaign

ROBIN COOK's hardening of Labour's position on a single European currency is the latest campaign shift by the party, which was accused at the weekend of making policy *on the hoof*. Labour also confirmed yesterday that key concessions promised to the unions were being dropped and that Gordon Brown is *considering the privatisation* of assets, land and buildings worth millions of pounds.

Tony Blair will tell the City today: "I believe that where *there is no overriding reason* for preferring public provision of goods and services then the assumption should be that economic activity is best left to the private sector."

The Tories yesterday accused Labour of changing its policies, alleging that it had made five distinct policy U-turns since the campaign began. Here are the claims and our assessment of the extent of the shift, if any.

On privatisation, the Tories claim that after years of attacking the policy Labour has now embraced it as a way of finding money to fill the "*black hole*" *in its finances*. There was nothing in the manifesto about it.

While the revision of Clause 4 saw Labour embracing the *market and the private sector*, it was only recently, when it emerged that Gordon Brown was considering selling the Tote, that the idea of Labour being prepared *to countenance* privatisation emerged. Since the "black hole" was identified specific assets have been mentioned for the first time — Parcelforce, Channel 4, the Air Traffic Control System — even though the transport spokesman Andrew Smith said last year "our air is not for sale" and recent policy document has committed Labour to keeping Channel 4 in the public sector. Verdict: a fairly *comprehensive* U-turn.

On Scotland the Tories say that Labour, having decided to give the Scots their Parliament and tax-varying powers, now *say that it will not be able to* put up taxes for five years.

Labour has already watered down devolution by insisting on a referendum on tax-raising. When *The Times* reported it would not be able to raise taxes for a Parliament this was denied. Mr Blair confirmed it on Friday, although, to be fair, the pledge was in the Scottish Labour *manifesto* published on the same day. Verdict: U-turn, but it was already under way.

On the unions the Tories say that Mr Blair has gone back *on earlier promises to give the* unions new rights.

Mr Blair is now saying that he cannot guarantee legislation on union recognition in *his first year*; and that he will not give part-time workers the *same rights* as full-time workers, nor fulfil promises to reduce from two years to six months the time before which they claim unfair dismissal. Verdict: *substantial* climbdown.

On the single currency, the Tories allege that Robin Cook, having said there were "formidable obstacles" in the way of first-wave membership under Labour, has now made a "gaffe" suggesting that entry would be unlikely for a parliament.

Far from being a gaffe this was a deliberate move by Mr Cook and Mr Blair to steal a march on the Tories. If entry cannot go ahead in 1999 it would be difficult for it to do so in 2000 or 2001, and Mr Cook was stating the obvious. Verdict: clever repositioning.

On terrorism the Tories claim simply that Labour can*not be trusted. Jack Straw is* accused of saying Labour would "fully" operate the Prevention of Terrorism Act, yet these were the powers Labour had voted against year after year.

Mr Straw's position has not changed. He said there were doubts about the use of exclusion orders and judicial involvement over detention orders, but that Labour would continue to operate the PTA as it had in government before. Verdict: no real U-turn.

CHRIS HARRIS



Tony Blair: accused on privatisation, Scotland, unions, EMU and terrorism

Blair drops three key pledges on workers

TONY BLAIR has backed down from three key policy *pledges on workers' rights* which he had given trade unions over the past year (Jill Sherman writes).

The unions have contributed roughly £5 million to the party's election fund this year but Mr Blair has made clear that he will not bow to their demands.

He has said that a pledge on union recognition was *not a priority and would* not be included in Labour's first Queen's Speech. Officials now say that it was more likely to be *included in the second* year.

Mr Blair also made clear that there would be a third party, headed by a judge, to adjudicate when *employers could not agree* with workers on which sections of the workforce to ballot. He went further this weekend and ditched a pledge to give part-time workers the same rights as full time workers and to allow workers to claim unfair dismissal after six months of employment rather than the present two years.

His U-turn on part-time workers follows a speech to the TUC in September 1995, in which he said: "*With Labour, they would* be entitled to the same fair treatment as full-time employees."

What the Shadow Cabinet has said on privatisation

Tony Blair
"Public utilities like Telecom and gas and essential industries such as British Airways and Rolls-Royce were sold off by the Tories in the closest thing, postwar, to political corruption. What we all owned was taken away from us, flogged off at a cheap price to win votes, and the proceeds used to fund tax cuts. In fact it was a unique form of corruption, since we were bribed with our own money." — *News on Sunday, November 1, 1987*
"We have got to end this insane notion that everything's got to be shoved into the private sector. There are decent public services and they should be kept as public services." — *A 100 Women*, ITV, July 10, 1994
"[We are committed to] restoring a unified system of railways with a publicly owned, publicly accountable BR at its core." — Labour conference, October 1, 1996

Gordon Brown
"Privatisation has been a costly experience whose benefits have been at best dubious. The losers have been the tax payers, the winners undisputably the big institutions in the City and the top management of private companies." — Writing in 1989 on the electricity privatisations
"This last desperate Conservative sell-off, this closing-down sale that signifies the moral bankruptcy of this Government." — on rail privatisation, addressing the Scottish Labour conference, March 10, 1996

Robin Cook
"We have a clear commitment to restore public ownership of the coal industry." — addressing the Commons, March 23, 1994

Andrew Smith (Transport)
"The Tories have dreamt up a new scheme to privatise the air. They want to flog off the National Air Traffic Control service ... let me warn the Transport Secretary: Labour will do everything to block this sell-off. Our air is not for sale." — Labour conference, 1996

Labour's line on Channel 4
"It seems unimaginable that the Government could even consider privatising the channel and thus *jeopardising this resource. Labour* will retain Channel Four as a public service broadcaster." — *Leading Britain into the Future*, Labour policy document, 1996

The current Labour position - as described by an aide of Mr Brown yesterday:

"We will look at everything on a practical basis, not from an ideological point of view."

Hard slog for Pontefract 'parachute brigade'

BY DAMIAN WHITWORTH



Three hopefuls: John Harman, left, a councillor, Yvette Cooper, of the "Millbank tendency", and Hilary Benn, son of Tony

IN Pontefract and Castleford the general election ends tonight. One of five hopefuls will win *the nomination for the* Labour candidature and celebrate the start of a job for life.

This former mining constituency, which Sir Geoffrey *Lofthouse won with a majority* of 23,495 at the last election, is a glittering prize to attract any aspiring Labour MP. But the intensity of the fight to secure the nomination *for the seat* and the long shadow that the party leader has cast over the affair has left the local community bemused and angered.

The bemusement started with the last-minute decision by Sir Geoffrey, a former miner and a Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons to stand down. Earlier he had furiously denied talk that he would move aside to let the Tory defector Alan Howarth find a safe haven. Then, when Mr Howarth clinched another seat, he did step down.

He referred to his advancing years — he is 71 — and a slight medical complaint, but constituents were amazed. He told them: "I have informed Tony Blair of my decision and *have insisted there is still time* for my constituency party to be allowed to choose their next candidate from a suitable shortlist with local members being given the opportunity to be considered. This will mean a ballot of local members will choose the next candidate. If I had not been given that assurance, I would have battled on."

The first smoulderings of anger came when Labour's national executive announced that the pressure of time mean that it would have to draw up the shortlist from which the constituency would choose a candidate. Rumours abounded that Jack Dromey, husband of Harriet Harman, the Shadow Social Services Secretary, *and a senior officer with the* Transport and General Workers' Union, was to be "parachuted" into the seat by the leadership.

In the end neither he nor Bryan Davies, whose Oldham Central and Royston seat disappeared under boundary changes, made the shortlist. But when local party members saw the list tempers flared. Despite plenty of contenders, not one local constituent had made the last five. Two on the *list* were from elsewhere in Yorkshire, but that makes them almost as foreign as anyone else in this part of the world. The other three chosen were from London: two were rising Blairite stars.

Straight away the candi*dates* faced resentment. "Clearly the constituency party would have liked to have had at least one person with local credentials. That has not happened and there are some concerns at that." Andy Wood, chairman of the constituency party, said.

The bad feeling was exacerbated by the fact that a number of those who will be *listening hard to the five* candidates tonight and then casting votes are local men, including Mr Wood, who had put themselves forward for the *shortlist. However, they found* themselves rejected by the national executive.

The London candidates have faced the most suspicion and scrutiny. One senior local party official said he was doubtful of the chances of Hilary Benn, the son of Tony Benn and an Ealing councillor, Derek Scott, an economic adviser to Tony Blair, and Yvette Cooper, a newspaper economics correspondent who *has worked for John Smith* and Gordon Brown. The official said: "I think it will be very difficult for them, there is no question of that. The local party clearly has great affinity with local candidates. There are proud traditions here." He added: There is great disappointment that these won't be continued."

YVETTE COOPER

Age: 28.
New Labour rating: a central figure of the Millbank Tendency. Has worked on public spending for Gordon Brown and is economic correspondent for *The Independent*.
Old Labour rating: see above.
Campaigning style: drops into conversation that some of her family come from Doncaster, while others are from mining village in Cumbria.

JOHN HARMAN

Age: 46
New Labour rating: leader of Kirklees Council in Huddersfield since 1986. Regarded as one of the brightest Labour politicians outside Westminster.
Old Labour rating: local boy, who moved away as a child but did at least stay in Yorkshire.
Campaign style: "I was born in Castleford."

CATH ASHTON

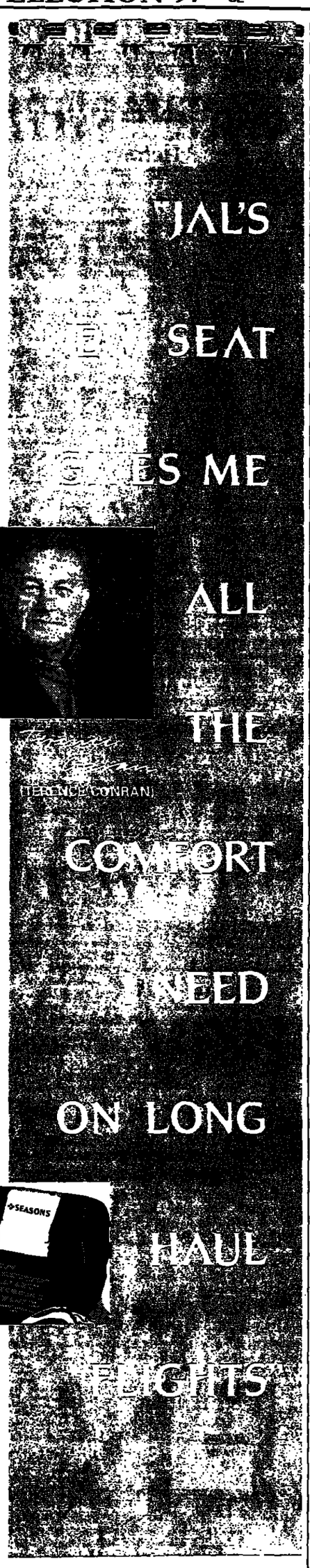
Age: 38
New Labour Rating: Member of Labour's National Policy Forum who has been shortlisted for half a dozen seats
Old Labour Rating: full time convenor for the AEEU (Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union)
Campaign Style: Fighting with Benn for the union vote and playing local (ish) card

DEREK SCOTT

Age: 46
New Labour rating: works for BZW, the City arm of Barclays, and advises Tony Blair on economic policy. Married to Eleanor Goodman, Channel 4 political editor.
Old Labour rating: former SDP candidate.
Campaign style: is Blair's man by implication and could be star of the future.

HILARY BENN

Age: 43
New Labour rating: son of the veteran Labour MP Tony Benn.
Old Labour rating: big noise in the MSF union (manufacturing, science and finance).
Campaigning style: tapping up the union vote and pressing flesh with miners.



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OYSTEL

Major denies he is dragging debate 'into the gutter'

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

THE Prime Minister denied charges yesterday that he was running a personal campaign against Tony Blair after the first "dirty tricks" row of the election surfaced over the weekend.

But Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, led a welter of complaints from Labour figures claiming that the Tories were "descending into the gutter" with their claims to journalists that Mr Blair was cracking under the strain, that he had been "perspiring heavily" before important interviews last week and even that he may have been wearing an earpiece during his manifesto launch so that he could be prompted in his reply to questions.

A Sunday newspaper interview in which John Major accused Mr Blair of "slithering and squirming" from detailed interrogation was also cited.

But it was Michael Howard's criticism, for the second time in the campaign, of Labour's attitude to terrorism — the day after the IRA wrecked the Grand National — that caused the most outrage in Labour ranks.

It prompted Labour to disclose the confidential Home Office memorandum governing the response of ministers and their shadows to terrorist events: pointing out that it should be limited to the voicing of revulsion, sympathy for the victims and the authorities' determination to bring the perpetrators to justice.

Jack Straw, Mr Howard's Labour shadow, had said earlier that a Labour government would continue to operate the Prevention of Terrorism Act, although the party had doubts about the use of exclusion orders and judicial involvement in detention orders. He said: "We operated it when we were in government and we will operate it again."

That prompted the Home Secretary to say that Labour could not be trusted on terrorism. Mr Howard said: "One day Marjorie Mowlam (the Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary) says Sinn Fein could be invited to talks within weeks of a Labour government. Today Jack Straw contradicts her and in the same breath he says that a Labour government would fully operate the powers of the [Prevention of Terrorism Act]. Yet these are the very powers that Labour have voted against year after year."

THE TORY CAMPAIGN

Labour said that Mr Howard had broken the bipartisan agreement under the pressure of the election campaign.

Mr Brown said: "I think that all decent people will regret the fact that when we should be standing shoulder-to-shoulder, when there should be an all-party consensus to fight terrorism, Michael Howard has degenerated into making personalised and inaccurate comments about the Labour Party."

Appearing on *Breakfast with Frost* yesterday, Mr Major rejected claims that he had launched a personal attack on Mr Blair and said that he was focusing on policy areas and the Labour leader's refusal to answer questions on them or to debate them with him.

The Prime Minister said that he wanted to debate the real issues and to get away from "sloganising", adding: "One of the things I most loathe about politics these days is that it is politics by soundbite."

Sources close to Mr Blair, however, said that the Tories were trying to "take out Tony" because all the early polling material suggested that he was the key positive issue of the campaign.

They said: "Tony is trusted because he said what he would do to the Labour Party and he has done it. John Major is not trusted because he said he would not raise taxes and he has done so." The sources added: "If they want to fight the election on trust, that is fine by us."

'Mr Nice' lights up Norwich campaign

Sleaze holds no fears for former cannabis smuggler, writes **Michael Horsnell**

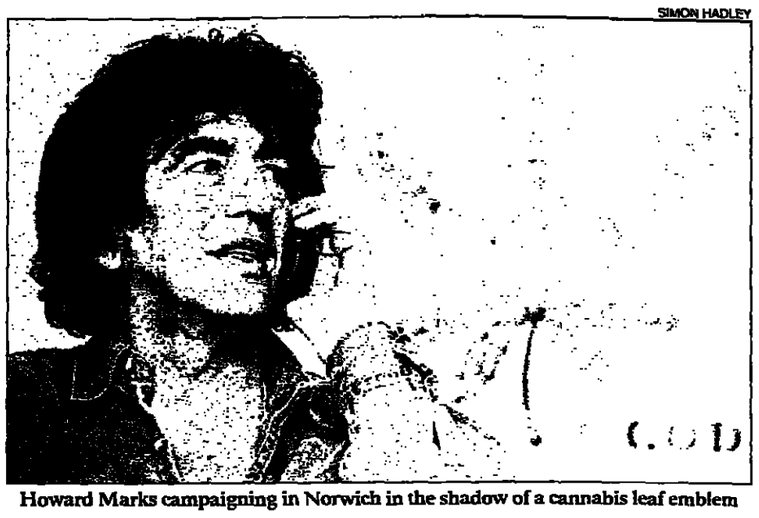
OTHER politicians may blanch at the mention of the word, but sleaze is the one factor that the aspiring MP Howard Marks has nothing to worry about during the election campaign.

Mr Marks, once the most wanted cannabis smuggler in the world, is standing as an independent in both the Norwich constituencies — North and South — on an anti-prohibition ticket.

"My skeletons are very much out of the cupboard," he said yesterday. "Sleaze is of no consequence to me. In fact the more allegations they make against me, the better."

Mr Marks, suntanned from the spring sunshine of Majorca, where he lives with his wife, Judy, and three of his four children, wants to legalise cannabis. He says prohibition leaves its supply in the hands of profiteers and criminalises the young. He should know, having run a multimillion-pound empire and been sentenced to 25 years in America for racketeering.

SIMON HADLEY



Howard Marks campaigning in Norwich in the shadow of a cannabis leaf emblem

Mr Marks, who was released two years ago after serving less than seven years of his sentence, confesses to having made "a few million" from importing up to 50 tonnes of cannabis at a time from Pakistan, Thailand and the Far East into Europe and America. He smokes cannabis daily. "Cannabis makes you feel better," he said.

He flew into Norwich to set up his campaign headquarters in the backstreet emporium, Paradox Delights, run by his agent Derek Williams. There, everything from hemp oil hair conditioner to bars of high energy New Earth seed bars is sold to people who enjoy "herbal highs".

Mr Marks has fond memories of Norwich. It was here that he bought a false passport in the name of Donald Nice, now deceased, and used it as one of his 43 aliases. He used *Mr Nice* as the title of his autobiography, published last year.

Norwich, more importantly, is the base of the Campaign to Legalise Cannabis International, which is backing him in its fifth anniversary year in his single-issue fight for a Parliamentary seat. Ladbrokes is offering 10,000-1 against his election, odds he regards as generous.

"Essentially, my aim is to prevent criminalising youth and messing up their careers by putting them in prison," he said. "But it is also a question of civil liberty to be able to take cannabis. It is my right to do what I want as long it doesn't harm anyone else. It is also for people suffering from various medical conditions for which doctors would like to prescribe cannabis but are being denied." He is convinced that cannabis will be legalised one day. "But I'm standing for Parliament because I'm in a bit of a rush."

Frost withers into a fisher of soundbites



TV WATCH
NICHOLAS WAPSHOT

When the late Peter Cook was asked whether he had had any regrets, he said yes, he had once saved David Frost from drowning. Well, yesterday it was Frost's turn to throw out a lifeline morning when John Major sat on his sofa and answered a few soft questions.

It is hard to believe that Frosty was once the scourge of wrongdoers in Britain. It was he who attracted opprobrium 30 years ago for conducting "trials by television". Even before the police had caught up with the criminal, there was the young Frost calling the fraudster before a studio audience jury and asking them what were then thought impertinent questions designed to make the crook incriminate himself.

We all grow old and more mellow, and Frost has long since hung up his crusader's cape in favour of cosy chats with the rich and famous. There is something unsettling about the complicity with which, on BBC1's *Breakfast with Frost*, he now co-operates with politicians, providing them with the chance to try out a few soundbites for the day's news bulletins in exchange for a croissant and a glass of orange juice.

Frost, too, benefits from this arrangement as he has a show which few watch but which has a reputation for getting the stories, albeit "stories" cooked up for the occasion. I doubt there is conferring between the two sides because none is necessary; Frost fishes for the soundbite and the politicians hook their cod on the line.

Yesterday, after touching on the Grand National, Frost asked Major whether the election was becoming more personal and abusive. "Heaven forfend that exchanges should get personal," said the pious PM. So no soundbite there. Then, after Frost rephrased the question, Major came out with this most quotable of quotes: "I do not believe that a Labour government, were there to be such a disaster in this country, could follow Conservative policies. I do not think it is in the instinct of the beast."

Frost cast his line in other directions. He asked if the common view that it was time for a change made any sense, but Major said nothing of interest. Then he asked how Major would answer the Labour charge that there had been 22 Tory tax increases, but the reply was too long-winded. Frost even lobbed this softest of soft balls, almost pleading for a quote to last the day: "What would you say is your strongest slogan?" Major missed. "I am not a sloganising politician."

Then, after a lengthy defence of the Government's policy on the European Union, Major came out with this: "Their manifesto is falling apart before our eyes."

Then: "A manifesto that has taken years to produce has taken days to fall to pieces." *Voilà!* Two bites in the bag and Frost, knowing that anything now would be a bonus, was willing to try some rougher questions.

What mistakes had Major made? How would he mark himself out of ten? Would he be visiting Neil Hamilton's constituency? Did he consider himself the underdog? Had he asked Margaret Thatcher to talk to Rupert Murdoch about which party *The Sun* would support? Major wasn't going to fall for any of them. Why should he? He had said all he needed to, and was playing for time.

At the end of the programme there was a news bulletin. "On this programme the Prime Minister returned to the subject of trust." And there was our old friend, "I do not believe that a Labour government, were there to be such a disaster ..." Three hours later, the BBC news editors had changed their minds and were going on "the manifesto is falling apart before our eyes". The 1pm ITN news followed suit. There, courtesy of *Breakfast with Frost*, was Major saying: "The manifesto is falling apart before our eyes." How very satisfactory for all concerned.

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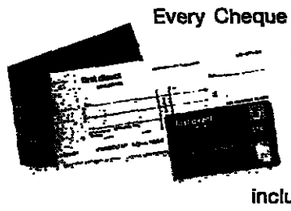
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Federal US faces war with 'Army of God'

BY TOM RHODES

A GROUP claiming responsibility for two explosions in Atlanta has issued a declaration of war against the United States Government in the run-up to the joint anniversary of the Waco siege and the Oklahoma City bombing in two weeks time.

In a letter received by two television stations in Atlanta, an organisation known as the Army of God said it was responsible for the unsolved bombings, injuring a total of 12 people, outside an abortion clinic and a gay club in the city earlier this year.

Although the message denied any involvement in the blast that resulted in the deaths of two people at the Atlanta Olympics last year, the letter mentioned the government siege at the Branch Davidian compound at Waco, Texas, in 1993 in which 80 cult members died.

It threatened to mount attacks on "facilities that murder children" and on "sodomites" but, of most concern to the FBI, officials said the letter promised "total war on the so-called federal Government and death to the New World Order".

The FBI and other government agencies said security was being increased throughout the Southern city for fear that the group might target Freaknik, the annual black student festival which is being held in Atlanta over the weekend which coincides with the Waco and Oklahoma anniversaries on April 19.

Individuals linked to the Army of God, a name related to an underground manual on terrorist acts against abortion clinics, have been associated with a spate of attacks over the last two decades.

But this is the first time a person claiming to represent the group has made reference to the federal Government. Bobby Browning, an official from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, yesterday said agents were being placed on high alert in Atlanta because the letter had indicated its next target might not be empty.

"We're asking employees to be on the lookout," he said. "We're sharing ideas on what to look for, and we have also set up response protocol, should something occur."

The Waco siege provoked a growing movement of disaffection towards the American Government and resulted, exactly two years after the conflagration, in the bombing at Oklahoma City in which 168 people, including 19 children, were killed.

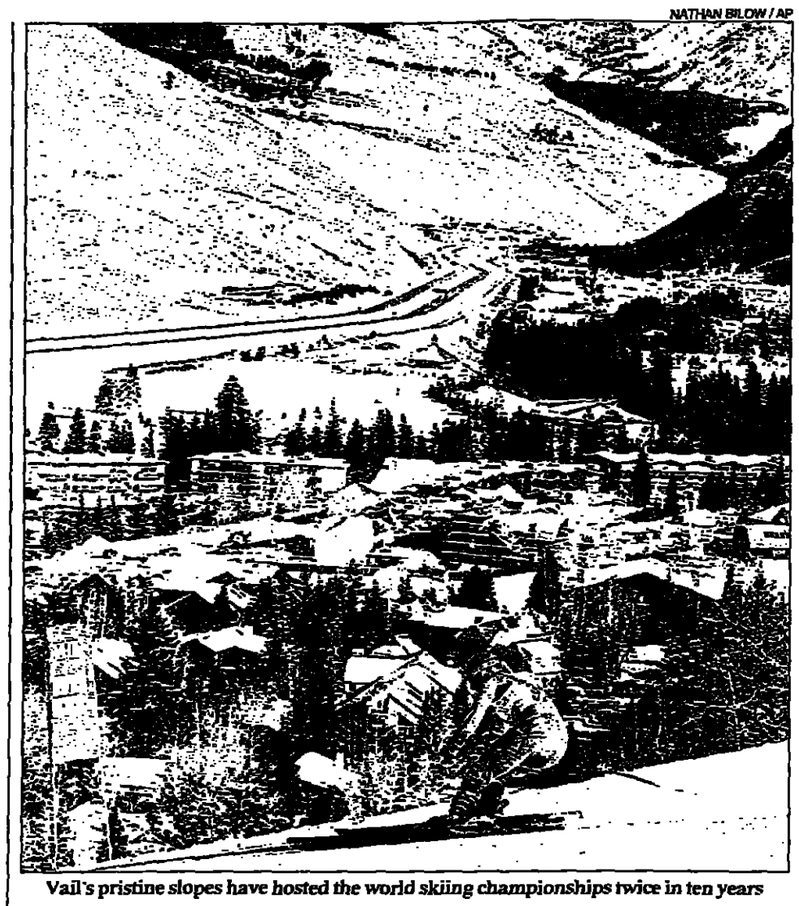
Timothy McVeigh, the chief suspect in the Oklahoma City bomb, is currently standing trial in Denver on murder and conspiracy charges. Although his case has stagnated in the jury selection phase, which could take weeks to conclude, the trial has only heightened tension among militia groups and other anti-Washington activists in the run-up to the anniversary.

Security is also being tightened at all government facilities throughout the United States in preparation for what has been named Militia Day.



An artist's impression of McVeigh in court

NATHAN BILOW / AP



Vail's pristine slopes have hosted the world skiing championships twice in ten years

Super-chic ski resort 'sliding downmarket'

FROM TOM RHODES IN VAIL, COLORADO

THE world's largest ski company is involved in a bitter dispute with the founders of Vail, who claim its new owners are turning the American resort — a favourite of Diana, Princess of Wales — into a downmarket theme park.

Oldtimers say Vail Resorts, the new management company, is creating the mountain equivalent of Disneyland, threatening livelihoods and sacrificing the traditionally chic atmosphere for cheap mass marketing.

The grande dame of the Rockies, Vail has always attracted far larger numbers than Aspen, its Colorado sister whose combination of culture and cachet has tended to lure a more famous clientele of Hollywood types, sports personalities and tycoons.

Vail, nevertheless, has offered stiff competition as the most popular American resort, a skiing haven for America's upper-middle classes and, because of historical ties to Colorado, a holiday bolthole for senior Mexican government members. Many industry barons, including Ross Perot, the former presidential candidate, own houses in and around the village that was founded by a small band of enthusiasts in the early 1960s.

Like Aspen, celebrating its fiftieth anniversary this summer, Vail has prided itself on being a distinct community. Its hills have twice hosted the world skiing championships in ten years. Its slopes are said to be America's best-groomed.

Two months ago, Vail Resorts went public, merged with the nearby skiing areas of Breckenridge and Keystone, and began an aggressive expansion to increase its percentage of the tourist dollar. Many villagers believe that traditional Vail visitors will join a steady stream making the pilgrimage to Aspen. German skiiers, who have favoured Vail for its "Bavaiian" architecture, are already said to be deserting.

> "Rockies' grande dame may become great whore of Colorado skiing"

Jonathan Staufer, whose Austrian father, Josef, and British mother, Anne, are among the founders — and for more than 25 years ran the Vail Village Inn — said: "They are concentrating so much at the lower end of the market, strip-mining this place and driving people away. I do not want to see the grande dame of the Rockies become the great whore of Colorado skiing."

Independent ski rental shops say that Vail Associates, a subsidiary of Vail Resorts, is pricing them out. Other residents say blaring music and Adventure Ridge, an all-night sporting playground, are the beginning of the end.

The company is hoping to build more lifts and homes on 2,000 acres next to the resort and makes no apology for operating on the principle "bigger means better".

Andy Daly, president of Vail Associates, said: "We are in the entertainment business. People come to Colorado for the all-in experience of winter wonderland. Our challenge is to avoid animating it the way Disneyland does and to keep it very natural."

Chairman of the Fed seals new merger

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

AMERICA'S "second most powerful" — and normally most cautious — man, the chairman of the Federal Reserve, Alan Greenspan, bought into the marriage market yesterday.

Mr Greenspan, 71, wed his long-term friend, Andrea Mitchell, 50, a prominent television reporter. The couple exchanged vows to seal the merger at a ceremony in Virginia attended by about 75 friends.

In some ways it was a surprising match. Mr Greenspan's donnish figure contrasting with blonde Miss Mitchell's hair gel, sparkling earrings and blazing-eyed television ambition.

In keeping with Mr Greenspan's grasp of the deadpan, the union was gazetted with a sober listing in yesterday's *New York Times* weddings page, where columns are normally the domain of Manhattan's socially precise Lady Wishforts and their cushioned progeny.

There, alongside the Epsteins and Bleusteins and Leibowitzes, was the announcement that romance had claimed the man whose merest throat clearance can shake the world's stock markets. "The bridegroom" was described as the son of the late Rose Goldsmith and the late Herbert Greenspan. "He has been the Federal Reserve chairman since 1987," it was noted.

The marriage has been one of the few reasons for smiles on Wall Street in recent days, as the Dow Jones index has lost most of the gains it made earlier this year.

The main culprit for those price falls, if you listen to the "bulls", has been the "bearish" Mr Greenspan, who has repeatedly warned investors that the market is more than ripe. Stockholders will be hoping that when he returns to his office this morning — nothing so irrational as a honeymoon is being taken — Mr Greenspan will view life as an altogether sunnier pastime. It is not, however, a mood shift on which to bet the ranch.

Recycling myth sent to urban junkyard

BY TOM RHODES

THE recycling of discarded materials, one of the great urban myths of America's green revolution, has been debunked as an economic disaster. Americans spend hours sorting their rubbish into plastics, aluminium, glass and newspaper for separate collection, and berate those unwilling to do so.

But a decision by Washington DC to suspend its programme has been welcomed by experts who say recycling is little more than a costly political ruse with no financial return. Marion Barry, Mayor of the near-bankrupt federal capital, has said his proposal will save $2.5 million (£1.5 million a year.

Although yesterday he faced a resolution from his own city council demanding the immediate reinstatement of recycling, Mr Barry found unlikely allies on Wall Street.

"Washington has started the ball rolling," said Michael Hoffman, a garbage analyst at Credit Suisse First Boston in New York. "Ask any American what happens to their garbage or what it costs and they will have no idea. Politicians have been disingenuous about telling the public the truth: the emperor has no clothes." Mr Hoffman said the recycling programme in Washington cost $200 a tonne while rubbish collection and disposal should amount to little more than $25.

While commercial programmes remained viable, he said most cities would soon realise that residential recycling merely increased the cost to the taxpayer. "It is of zero social value if you are losing that much money," he said. "It would be much easier to either burn the garbage or landfill it."

Rubbish has a market value. And while two years ago local authorities were receiving $150 per tonne of recycled newspapers, they must now pay pulp mills $30 a tonne for collection. Plastic bottles, worth 22 cents a pound last year, are now valued at just five cents.

Leading article, page 21

UN to rescue 100,000 refugees in Zaire jungle

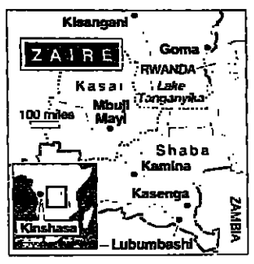
BY SAM KILEY, AFRICA CORRESPONDENT

THE United Nations yesterday began planning its biggest and most expensive humanitarian airlift to move more than 100,000 Hutus, including some mass killers, back to Rwanda. The cost of the operation, authorised at the weekend by Laurent Kabila, leader of Zaire's rebels, was estimated to be at least $50 million (£30.7 million) and may take several months.

The refugees, who fled to Zaire in 1994 in fear of retribution for their part in the genocide of a million Tutsis and moderates of their own tribe, will be flown from rebel-held Kisangani, to Goma, close to the border with Rwanda, and then trucked home.

Their numbers have been depleted, with deaths running at about 120 a day according to UN officials, after a seven-month trek through Zaire's jungle ahead of the Tutsi-dominated rebel advance. After their flight through the forests, and weeks living off grubs, leaves and roots, the refugees were unable to make the journey over roads impassable to vehicles. Sadako Ogata, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, said in a statement from Geneva: "We are delighted that [the rebel] alliance has agreed to allow this desperately needed airlift to begin. Many thousands of refugees are dying of malnutrition and disease. We are racing against time to save their lives. The repatriation via Kisangani represents the best and quickest way of doing that."

In Pretoria talks between Zaire's Government and the rebels opened at the weekend, but not even Muhammad Sahnoun, the UN special envoy, held out any hope that they would lead to a ceasefire. On Saturday Mr Kabila's fighters overran MbujiMayi, the capital of East Kasai province and centre of Zaire's diamond trade, and the chance of their agreeing to a ceasefire seems remote, unless President Mobutu steps down.



At MbujiMayi there was little resistance from local soldiers who stole mining company vehicles to flee. The only fighting, mining sources said, was between government soldiers and civilians trying to prevent the looting of their possessions.

At least $20 million in diamonds are traded on MbujiMayi's streets each week. Now the rebels have access to funds that could be used to bolster their nascent administration.

Like Kisangani, MbujiMayi fell without much of a fight because the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire has earned a reputation for discipline. In some of the areas under alliance control local administrators are collecting taxes. The money has been used to pay public servants — an almost unheard of level of honesty in Zaire.

Mr Kabila's forces yesterday were poised to take Lubumbashi, Zaire's second largest city and the centre of the mining industry. Locals have been waiting eagerly and nervously for the arrival of the rebels who, some sources claimed, had already negotiated contracts with international mineral companies.

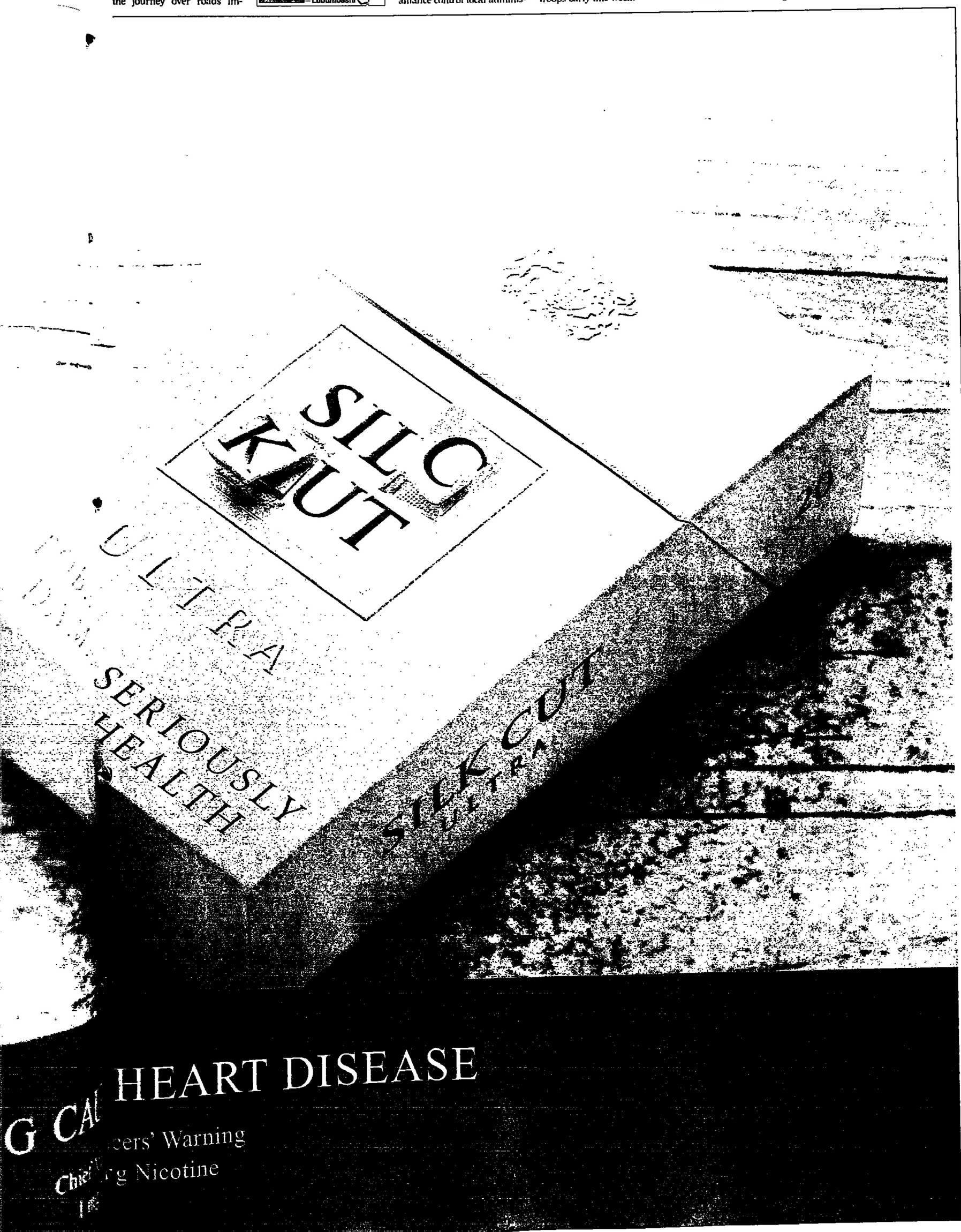
"If there are any more than a few shots in the air when the rebels attack Lubumbashi, I would be very surprised," said a Western ambassador in Kinshasa, the capital. "Psychologically, the place is already in the hands of the rebels."

Mr Kabila's forces were about 125 miles away from Lubumbashi yesterday. The rebel leader hinted that after taking Tenke — to be the site of the world's largest copper and cobalt mine — that Lubumbashi could fall to his troops early this week.

ADIL BRADLOW / AP



A Rwandan refugee is carried on a stretcher to a medical facility at a makeshift camp south of Kisangani



Papers on Rhodesia show rage of Wilson

BY VALERIE ELLIOTT
WHITEHALL EDITOR

THE former Prime Minister, Harold Wilson, furiously berated his Commonwealth colleagues in talks on the future of Rhodesia in the 1960s and told them to stop treating Britain like "a bloody colony", newly released Commonwealth papers reveal today.

He later withdrew the word "bloody" at the private meeting of Commonwealth leaders in London, but was irritated by their failure to back Britain's proposal to offer Ian Smith a last chance to sort out his illegal regime. Many Commonwealth leaders, particularly those from Africa and Asia, believed force was the only sure way to bring down the Smith regime.

In the first release of papers from the Commonwealth Secretariat under the 30-year rule, it is clear Wilson became tetchy and rattled by the protracted discussions of the Commonwealth Prime Ministers dealing with Rhodesia's unilateral declaration of independence in November 1965.

He finally snapped at a secret session of Prime Ministers in London in September 1966, when he said the attitudes of some Commonwealth leaders were putting him in a position which no head of government could tolerate.

He railed at the meeting and said his colleagues paid no attention to the problems he and his Cabinet faced over Rhodesia. He complained that each time he modified British policy to suit them, they demanded more concessions. He said they took no account of Britain's relationship with South Africa and the number of British citizens in Rhodesia.

In a particularly brazen mood, Wilson reminded his colleagues that, if it had not been for Britain, none of their countries would have been granted independence, and they should remember Britain too was independent.

Wilson errupted again at another private meeting after leaks to the press and he accused Commonwealth leaders of mounting "a campaign of character assassination" against him. He was incensed by press reports that I. M. Kapwepwe, the Zambian Foreign Minister, had called him a "racialist" in interviews in London.

WORLD SUMMARY

Ginsberg dies after a stroke

New York: Eight days after learning that he had inoperable liver cancer, the beatnik writer and iconoclast Allen Ginsberg has died in New York aged 70 (Quentin Letts writes).

Last Thursday Ginsberg suffered a stroke and fell into a coma from which he never awoke, according to friends. His favourite Tibetan monk was on hand to perform a Buddhist ceremony to the dead. **Obituary, page 23**

US envoy faces visa inquiries

Hong Kong: Police are investigating James DeBates, a US diplomat here, for suspected visa fraud in the second such scandal at the US consulate in the run-up to the handover to China (Catherine Field writes). The case is part of inquiries into the suspected smuggling of illegal immigrants from China to America.

Rebels massacre 80 in Algeria

Paris: In the worst violence in Algeria for five years, Muslim guerillas have massacred more than 80 men, women and children (Susan Bell writes). The Algerian press reported that victims had been cut with chainsaws, hacked to death with axes and doused with petrol in the attacks last Thursday and Friday.

Netanyahu flies to talks in US

Jerusalem: Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, yesterday embarked on a peace mission to the US seen by diplomats as a last chance to prevent violence between Jews and Arabs developing into all-out conflict. Besides President Clinton, he will also meet King Hussein of Jordan. **William Rees-Mogg, page 20**

Towing feat

Bonn: An engineering student on rollerblades, Dirk Auer, 25, has claimed a world speed record after holding on to the back of a Porsche sports car as it reached 153 mph, a German newspaper reported. *(Reuter)*

Missing pilot and jet baffle US Air Force

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

UNITED States Air Force officials are mystified by the mid-flight disappearance of one of their ground-attack jets. An A10 Thunderbolt, carrying four 500lb bombs and flown by an experienced instructor, went missing last week, but its absence was reported only yesterday.

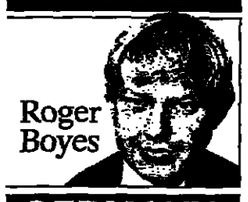
The pilot, Captain Craig Button, 33, based at Laughlin in Del Rio, Texas, was new to the Tucson, Arizona, base from which he took off on what should have been a routine flight to a nearby airfield. Captain Button, whose plane was accompanied by two other air force jets, suddenly broke out of formation and peeled off north towards the Colorado Rockies.

Search teams scoured parts of Arizona and Colorado for the missing plane, worth $9 million (£5.5 million). Bad weather impeded their efforts. The jet showed no signs of mechanical failure and no crashes have been reported in the region. The air force said that, had the plane hit the ground, its bombs would not necessarily have exploded.

An air force spokesman said one possibility being considered was that Captain Button had stolen the jet.

Hit-team trial undermines Bonn's cosy relations with Iranian mullahs

INSIDE



Roger Boyes

GERMANY

Germany's true political dramas are played out in the courtroom rather than in parliament. Like a bored viewer, channel-hopping between soap operas, one could spend one's working life commuting between trials — of spymasters and traitors, a murderous doctor, Politburo bigwigs, a toupéed property dealer and befuddled skinheads with swastikas tattooed on their knuckles.

If, as expected, an Iranian hit team is jailed by a Berlin court this week, Wagnerian storm clouds will break over Europe's already choppy relationship with the Tehran regime. Germany has been the most zealous proponent of Europe's "critical dialogue" with the mullahs. Yet the trial prosecutor has been arguing that an attack on Iranian Kurdish dissident leaders — shot in a Berlin restaurant five years ago — was ordered by Tehran.

An arrest warrant has been issued by the German authorities for Iran's Police Minister, Ali Fallahian. A guilty verdict in Berlin will effectively brand Iran as a sponsor of international terrorism and make it impossible to continue with the European line that seeks to reform the regime by selling it anything it can afford while tut-tutting whenever a dissident is abducted.

There has been precious little "criticism" in this dialogue and, for that matter, very little talk. A balance sheet covering five years of this entirely misconceived policy makes the situation plain. At least 11 Iranian exiles have been murdered and some 300 expatriates have been harassed or blackmailed. Some of these operations have been run from the Iranian Embassy in Bonn.

The price on Salman Rushdie's head has been raised, and in Iran, writers are feeling the pressure, not only from a rigorous censor. In the Middle East, Iran continues to destabilise. Its support for Hezbollah keeps the region on edge. There is, admittedly, not much to show for the US alternative — an all-out trade boycott of Iran. Germany, whose excellent trading relationship with Tehran is rooted in the 1857 Friendship Treaty between Persia and Prussia, resists sanctions, claiming that it hurts only the Iranian people.

Similar arguments were mustered by Bonn during the Cold War. The essence of early *Ostpolitik* — now applied to Iran, China and other closed regimes — is that trade encourages modernisers and that they lobby at home for human rights concessions. Gradually the complexion of the regime begins to change. The German approach, adopted blindly by the European Union, ignores the rumblings of discontent, the revolutionary potential of ordinary people, and focuses on battles (some of them little more than quixotic imaginings) within the establishment. That leads to poor analysis and an almost cartoon version of events which constantly pits "liberals" against "hardliners" in a never ending *Tom and Jerry* knockabout. Iran has never fallen comfortably into these categories; it seems — after parliamentary elections and ahead of this year's presidential contest — that the Islamic conservatives are calling the tune. But the only meaningful key to understanding the Iranian political class is to look for, and build on, the pragmatic instincts of those who want to hang on to power. That means applying real pressure on every issue that matters.

The Iranian regime is capable of constructive action. It mediated in the conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia on Nagorno-Karabakh; it has made some efforts to stabilise the Trans-Caucasian republics, and in Central Asia — Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Afghanistan — it has been playing a more useful role than Saudi Arabia or Pakistan. It does so because it can identify its goals in these regions.

Europe should spell out with equal clarity the limits of Iranian activities on the continent. Killing or threatening to kill people in EU states should lead to swift expulsion of diplomats and the scaling down of trade missions. Steps progressively isolating Iran would probably have more impact than sanctions. Germany should take the first step, as soon as the Berlin court returns its verdict.

Russian reformer heeds 'babushka' Thatcher's advice

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

BARONESS THATCHER is poised to play a central role in the dramatic reforms planned for Russia in the final years of the Yeltsin presidency, according to the most powerful new figure in Kremlin politics.

In a wide-ranging interview, Boris Nemtsov, the First Deputy Prime Minister appointed three weeks ago to shake up the Government, set out his ambitious strategy to tackle the most pressing matters facing Russia.

Young, good-looking and witty, the former liberal governor of Nizhny Novgorod compared his job to that of a kamikaze pilot. If he fails, his political career may plunge to destruction. If successful, he could become an unbeatable challenger for the presidency in 2000.

As he embarks on his mission to root out corruption, break up monopolies and sort out the country's chaotic pensions system, Mr Nemtsov revealed that he had discussed his plans in detail with Baroness Thatcher, a long-time friend and political ally, to whom at one point he referred as *babushka* (granny).

"I was at her home in December in Chester Square. We discussed three topics: the damage caused by monopolies, how to fight corruption, and the state pension system," he told *The Times* at his new office in the White House in Moscow.

He said: "She may not know the details, but she is great in assessing the overall situation." In his autobiography, *The Provincial*, which is launched in Russia this week, Mr Nemtsov makes it clear that more than just friendship unites them. "In general, I believe that Russia needs someone like Thatcher. She knows what needs to be done and how to do it," he writes.

The 37-year-old former physicist can certainly use all the help he can get. After President Yeltsin and his influential daughter, Tatyana Dyachenko, persuaded him to accept the ministerial job, he infuriated Moscow's political elite by forcing them to use Russian-made cars instead of imported ones.

Last week he was instrumental in helping to water down the reunification treaty with Belarus, which had been criticised by fellow liberals as a pact with a dictatorship.

This week he plans to start tackling massive official corruption. He is pushing through a presidential decree forcing every ministry to put out to public tender all government contracts, which are currently conducted in secret, often with huge bribes for bureaucrats.

"It had to be the first step in the struggle against corruption," said Mr Nemtsov. "Food and uniforms for the army, healthcare equipment, grain and everything dealing with state supplies will be procured on the basis of open tenders."



Nemtsov: determined to purge corruption

His next big challenge will be to break up Russia's powerful monopolies, in particular the energy sector, the railways,roads and the huge gas conglomerate. This final move is likely to set him on a collision course with Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, whose failure to tackle Russia's economic problems, such as unpaid wages and pensions, resulted in Mr Nemtsov's appointment.

Certainly, the brash young former governor is not afraid of a fight. In his book, he does not mince his words about the Prime Minister he now serves.

"He is a good man ... but maybe he is not quite ready for prime ministerial work in conditions of crisis," he writes. "He is experienced ... but he wants to remain an economic planner, and has for a long time resisted the daily pressures forcing him into politics. He is in a dubious position."

Only the coming months will tell whether Mr Nemtsov can survive his battle with the Moscow establishment, a fight which led to the sacking last year of Aleksandr Lebed, the former National Security Adviser, who trod on too many toes during his short tenure.

Nevertheless, Mr Nemtsov remained outwardly philosophical. He insisted that in accepting the job — against the wishes of his wife and daughter — he was not furthering any personal ambitions to become President. Few pundits in Moscow believe his denials. His ranking in a monthly poll of the country's most influencial political figures jumped last week from twenty-fourth to fourth.



AP

American astronaut Janice Voss, above, takes a firm grip with her feet as she makes checks on board the *Columbia space shuttle's spacelab* at the weekend. She and five colleagues, including Roger Crouch, seen in the background, are to abort their mission because of problems with an electric generator (Quentin Letts writes). Nasa's Mission Control yesterday ordered *Columbia* to return to Earth two weeks earlier than scheduled. The mission was to have lasted until April 20. The shuttle, which blasted off on Friday with a long list of scientific experiments to attempt, is expected to touch down at Kennedy Space Centre, Florida, tomorrow. Millions of dollars have been lost. Meanwhile, two Russians and an American on board the Russian space station Mir were stripped down to their waists yesterday as temperatures soared because of a problem with an air purification system. An unmanned rocket is on its way with spare parts.

Shuttle mission aborted

Election threatens EU treaty timetable

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

THE new-look Maastricht treaty comes up for a fresh round of haggling today with continental governments growing worried that Britain's election could derail the effort to tie up negotiations by June.

Although David Davis, the Minister for European Union, is at the table in the Dutch resort of Noordwijk, London is effectively playing Banquo's ghost as the other 14 governments go through the motions without any real British engagement.

The "conclave" of the intergovernmental conference (IGC) was called by the Dutch to give fresh impetus to treaty talks that began a year ago and are supposed to produce a blueprint for a more integrated Europe at an EU summit in Amsterdam in June. British resistance to any dilution of the national veto has dominated the talks, masking wide disagreement over defence, the size of the European Commission and the powers of the European Parliament.

EU officials are beginning to fret that the birth of a new British government in early May will leave too little time to bridge the differences and tie up the treaty by the summer. There is also a growing awareness that, while a Blair administration may be better disposed towards Europe, it would pitch its camp on almost the same lines as the Conservatives. Fresh negotiation may be needed in Luxembourg, the next EU presidency, in the autumn.

Souring the atmosphere as ministers gathered on the North Sea coast last night was a squabble over relations with China. France, Germany, Italy and Spain refused to agree on an EU declaration, supported by Britain and the other nine states, condemning China's human rights policies.

Whistle blown on French secret police

FROM SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

A DISILLUSIONED former French spy who has written a book revealing the machinations of the French secret police is being sued by the Government for defamation.

Jean-Louis Debré, the Interior Minister, has brought the suit against Patrick Rougelet, whose book, *The Scandal Machine*, was published on Friday. In it, M Rougelet calls for the disbanding of the Renseignements Généraux (RG), on the grounds that it is a threat to democracy. Describing the organisation as "above the law", M Rougelet says the organisation's agents are the most powerful people in France. The force is "a state within a state uncontrolled by the judiciary or by parliament", he says, adding that French politicians are often indebted to the force because of its role in suppressing corruption scandals.

His claims come at an embarrassing time for the ruling RPR party. Mysterious letters from a remarkably well-informed person to the judge investigating alleged illegal funding of the President and Prime Minister's party have included internal memos from the force, containing tantalising references to RPR financing and Swiss banks. However, despite repeated requests from the judge, the RG director, Yves Bertrand, and a senior officer, Brigitte Henri, have denied having any useful knowledge, leading to speculation that they may soon be placed under formal investigation for withholding information.

M Rougelet compares the RG's methods to those of the KGB or the Stasi. The force was set up under the collaborationist Vichy government in 1941 to carry out "political surveillance" of Jews, communists and resistance members.

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Iñaki Urdangarin, top, at the Altanta Olympics

Sports star 'seeks hand of princess'

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID

SOCCER-obsessed Spaniards have developed a sudden interest in handball, provoked by rumours that the Infanta Cristina de Borbón y Grecia, the second daughter of King Juan Carlos, will shortly announce her engagement to a Barcelona player.

The 31-year-old Infanta, third in line to the Spanish throne and a keen sports fan, is being linked to Iñaki Urdangarín Liebaert, 29, who was a member of Spain's handball team at last year's Olympic Games in Atlanta. The Infanta Cristina was at the Games where she spent a good deal of time at the handball courts, exhorting the Spanish players to an unprecedented bronze medal. News of her impending engagement to Señor Urdangarín was broken last Tuesday by a television station.

Last week a journalist misled Doña Pilar de Borbón, the King's older sister, into believing that an announcement of the engagement had been made. A delighted Doña Pilar revealed that she "knew all about" Señor Urdangarín. "He is extremely handsome," she added.

King Juan Carlos, visiting Mexico, said guardedly: "Yes, they are friends, and they go out as friends, but nothing more." However, he added: "No one can know what will happen in the future."

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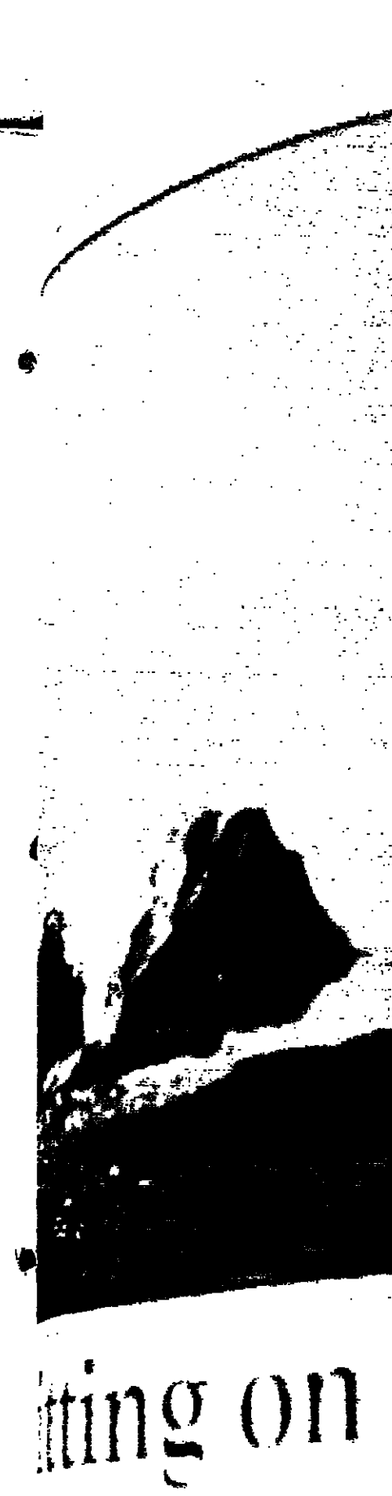
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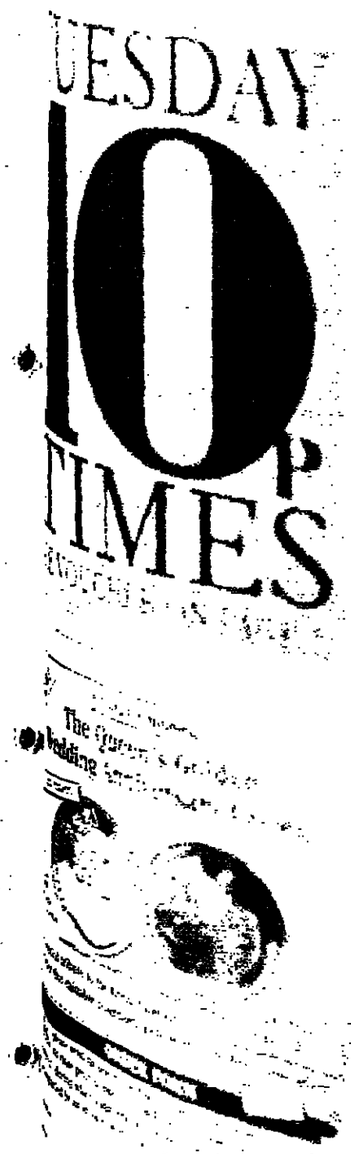
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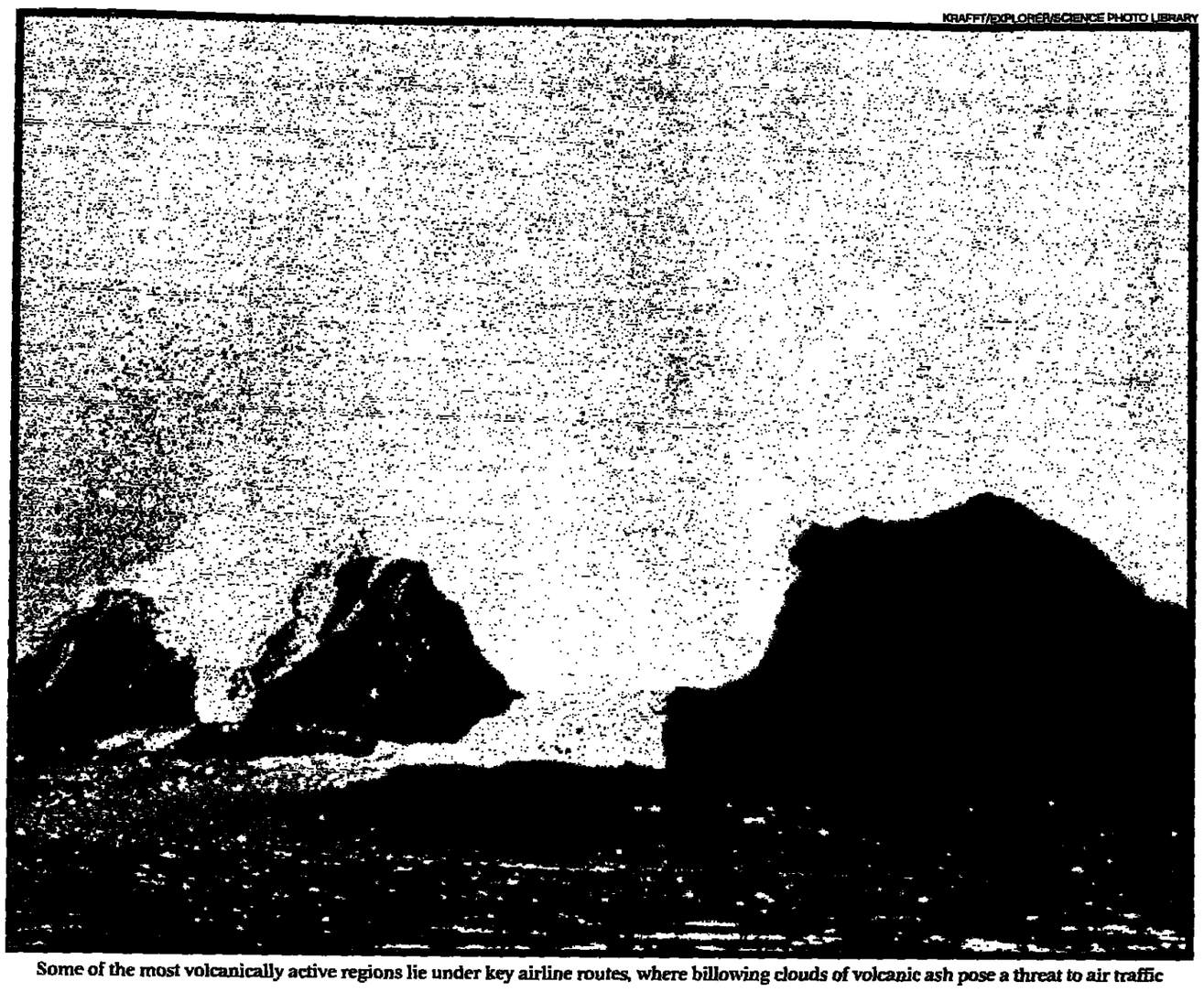
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TIM 7






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Some of the most volcanically active regions lie under key airline routes, where billowing clouds of volcanic ash pose a threat to air traffic

Sitting on a time bomb

Vulcanologists predict a major eruption — but they cannot say where. **Anjana Ahuja** reports

A handsome volcano expert predicts an eruption and warns a nearby town to evacuate; the warning is ignored, with deadly consequences. The plot of *Dante's Peak*, in which Pierce Brosnan stars as the heroic vulcanologist, could easily be dismissed as trite.

Yet the truth about volcanoes, Nature's most vicious and dramatic time bombs, makes for disturbing reading. Vulcanologists predict, using historical records, that a major eruption is imminent. As yet, there is no foolproof method of knowing which of the planet's 600-odd active volcanoes will blow its top. It seems Hollywood's reading of the situation isn't too wide of the mark.

And there's worse. Some of the most volcanically active regions, such as the Aleutian Islands off Alaska, lie under key airline routes. The United States Geological Survey estimates that for four days a year, billowing clouds of volcanic ash pose a significant hazard to air traffic.

Satellites look likely to provide the answer. Two European remote sensing satellites, ERS-1 and ERS-2, have been monitoring ground movements at Mount Etna. Next year will see the launch of AM-1, an American satellite that will map lava flows, measure the drift of volcanic clouds, and monitor emissions of sulphur dioxide. Another satellite, LightSAR, which would provide the most detailed and consistent information on volcanic activity so far, is in the planning stage.

"The height of the ground can shift vertically by about six inches prior to an eruption," says Dr Jeffrey Plaut, a geologist at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, and researcher on LightSAR.

"It is caused by the magma swelling around the summit. The groundshifts tend to go hand in hand with changes in lava flows and emissions." The LightSAR instrumentation would be capable of measuring shifts in centimetres. However, scientists admit that the time lag between seeing a shift and an eruption could be anything from hours to months.

Until now, researchers have had to garner information from instruments on the ground and aircraft flyovers. They have enjoyed some success — the eruption in 1991 of Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines was forecast, and 85,000 people were evacuated. An eruption in Papua New Guinea was also predicted 24 hours beforehand. However, ground instruments and flyovers present serious drawbacks.

First, it is often risky for people and planes to get too close to an volcano — several vulcanologists have died over the past few years during ground experiments. Instruments can succumb to the harsh environment, and they can also perish if the volcano stirs. Dr Plaut says: "There tend to be precursors to eruptions, and one of these pulses in activity can be enough to wipe out instruments."

> 'The height of the ground can shift by about six inches'

That makes data-gathering patchy, which renders the reliable identification of trends almost impossible. Another hindrance is that not all areas are accessible, either because the terrain is remote or because of political barriers.

These remote regions can be monitored from space. It would also assist countries who cannot afford to maintain a network of ground instruments. The other bonus is that radar can be used night and day, and in cloudy weather, giving more consistent coverage. The pulses are bounced off the Earth, and any change in the returning "echoes" indicates a shift.

As for the threat to aircraft, an American vulcanologist has come up with an intriguing idea. Dr Dave Pieri, also from the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, has proposed installing a constellation of three or four satellites with the sole intention of monitoring the turbulent "ring of fire" surrounding the Pacific. Thought to be one of the most active regions, it also happens to sit beneath a popular flight path.

In these cash-strapped times, Dr Pieri has floated the idea of funding the constellation by levying a seven-dollar fee on every airline passenger flying those routes. In other words, the scheme would introduce a "volcano tax". The plan is being discussed by the aviation authorities.

"The route from Anchorage to Tokyo passes over about 300 active volcanoes," Dr Pieri says. "With the South-East Asian economy growing so quickly, traffic can only expand. The great threat is that volcanic plumes can reach aircraft altitudes. The ash gets sucked in the engine and melts, and this can stop the engine cooling. As a result, the engines can overheat. It really is a pressing issue. To my mind, it is the most direct worldwide threat from volcanoes."

Dr Pieri is not the only expert anxious to hurry research along. Bill McGuire, a vulcanologist from University College London, has repeatedly warned that too little is being done to prepare for the worst. Vulcanologists around the world think that the issue is taking on a fresh urgency, especially as the settlements near dormant volcanoes expand.

But despite the fears, vulcanologists have to cope with funding problems and political hurdles. Plans for a dedicated volcano satellite, the Volcano Infrared Eruption Watcher (View), were shelved last year. It might yet be revived.

Dr Pieri also acknowledges the "dicey balancing act" needed to protect people, but at the same time guard against false alarms. After all, evacuating populations is an expensive task and nobody would want to get it wrong.

Dr Pieri says: "This goes all the way back to Pompeii. There is evidence that a lot of people knew something big was on the way, but because the town was a rich agricultural region, and a resort for the Roman literati, nothing was done. And look what happened."

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The gene genie



SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

THE understanding of human genes is growing fast, but the clinical applications of the new knowledge are proving much more elusive. What does it profit us to know the genetic fault responsible for cystic fibrosis if we cannot use a corrected gene to put it right?

It is turning out to be very difficult to insinuate single genes into cells, make them work, and thereby cure disease. An alternative approach is certainly welcome, and may have opened up with the creation by American scientists of the first artificial human chromosomes.

Human beings have about 100,000 genes, found in the nucleus of cells wrapped in packages called chromosomes. Since there are only 23 pairs of chromosomes, each one contains many genes. The chromosomes act as stable platforms to enable the genes to do their job of creating proteins in a predictable way. So far, individual genes carried into the cell on the back of a virus, for example, have lacked this stability of expression.

Dr Huntington Willard and colleagues from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, have followed a different approach. Rather than trying to get individual genes into an existing chromosome, they propose creating a chromosome to contain it. And their experiments, reported in *Nature Genetics*, are encouraging evidence that they may be able to do it.

Chromosomes are not simply long stretches of DNA. They have terminal regions called telomeres, often compared to the tips of shoelaces, and with a similar purpose — to stop the DNA fraying. They also have regions in the centre, called centromeres. Between these two fixed points are the genes.

The artificial chromosome created by the Cleveland team is simple, containing only one gene, plus synthetic telomeres and centromeres. They were all inserted separately into human cells in culture. Then, just as the researchers hoped, the cells' own machinery assembled them in the right order, and covered them in chromatin, the protein that surrounds chromosomes. The cells then treated the new chromosome as it if were one of their own.

When the cells divided, the artificial chromosome did, too, copying itself for 240 successive divisions over the six-month period for which the culture was followed. Since this was a test-tube culture, it is impossible to know whether it would have functioned in the body. "We have every reason to expect that human genes would be expressed just fine," says Dr Willard.

A biotech company, Athersys, also based in Cleveland, hopes to exploit the development by treating blood disorders such as sickle cell amaemia, haemophilia, and immune deficiencies. Blood would be removed from a patient, treated so that its cells contained synthetic chromosomes able to make the missing proteins, and returned. If it worked, the disease would be cured. Medicine is seldom that simple, but it is nice to dream.

Human origins lie in African variations



THE argument over whether human beings emerged in Africa or, as some argue, everywhere, has generated a lot of heat. Now a new study supports the out-of-Africa hypothesis by showing that today's African populations have a greater genetic diversity than Europeans or Asians.

Genetic changes accumulate slowly, so the longer a population stays in one place, the greater the number of variations in its genes. If a group emigrates, it takes a sub-set of the genes containing less than the full extent of variation. This difference can be detected even hundreds of generations later.

The out-of-Africa proponents would therefore expect African populations to be more varied, as shown by Dr Lynn Jorde, of the University of Utah, and colleagues in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. They looked at 60 different genetic regions in the genes of Africans, Asians and Europeans. Diversity was 20 per cent higher among Africans, consistent with an African origin of modern humans, says Dr Jorde.

Introducing 007's latest weapon



GERMAN engineering is rightly celebrated, but some might hesitate to submit themselves to its latest product — a mechanical massage machine produced by the Fraunhofer Institute for Manufacturing Engineering and Automation in Stuttgart. The machine is designed to deliver a soothing massage to the back and legs without human intervention.

The moving robot arms travels up and down the body, gently lowering the massage "head" to pummel the flesh. Various heads are available, including coarsened rubber, bristles, or what the institute calls "nubs". The pressure and type of massage can be programmed from the prone position, but built-in safety systems ensure that the robot cannot become too rough.

A prototype has been built, and its designers expect manufacturers will be keen to make it more commercial. Fitness centres, suntan studios and hotels are all expected to be keen, but the machine really seems purpose-designed for a James Bond film.

TUESDAY 10p TIMES

SEE VOUCHER ON PAGE 2

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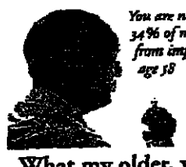
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'I was there when my wife died and the frame fitted very neatly'

DENZIL McNEELANCE



New love, new life: Jeremy Lowndes, his wife Barbara and the family pet at their cottage in the Wiltshire village of Fonthill Bishop. "We are an ideal couple and the relationship is idyllic, some amazing dream come true," she says

The couple at the heart of a Costa murder mystery talk of their love for the first time to **Bill Frost**

Jeremy Lowndes has not touched spirits since the night his wife was battered to death at the couple's villa on the Costa del Sol and he leapt from a balcony, breaking both ankles.

Abstinence was thrust upon the Old Etonian property millionaire after his arrest and conviction for murder. "If I had not spent the past four years in a Spanish jail as a guest of King Juan Carlos I would unquestionably be dead of drink now," he says while nursing a modest glass of red wine.

Undoubtedly, the hardship of prison life has mellowed him, and marriage to the woman he courted by letter from his prison cell has tamed a temper once described as "perhaps the worst in London".

His new wife, Barbara, is fiercely protective of 68-year-old Mr Lowndes; her belief in his innocence is instinctive and unshakeable. The couple, who were married in February, are plainly devoted to each other.

Their home, a small cottage in the Wiltshire village of Fonthill Bishop, is a world away from the Costa del Sol enclave for the seriously rich where Jeremy Lowndes was arrested after his first wife was found dying in a puddle of blood. There are no millionaire neighbours here, no Babylonian lunch parties fuelled with drink.

The second Mrs Lowndes will not allow her husband to dwell on the night that his first wife was bludgeoned to death with a blunt instrument (which was never recovered). "He is the innocent party, the priority now is to build *our* life together — he needs peace and quiet, we both do," she says.

Today, Mr Lowndes still finds it painful to talk about the death of Carmel Lowndes, a society beauty in the 1950s who was formerly married to the Earl of Kimberley, a prominent Tory peer. "I loved my first wife very much. She was a wonderful person and our years together were very happy," he says.

Recalling how the three met on the Costa del Sol, where Barbara had sought sanctuary after the death of her husband, he says: "We became very, very close. Carmel and I were the firmest of friends with Barbara."

Jeremy and Carmel, the daughter of Australian boxing champion Michael Maguire, had married in 1954 — two years after her divorce from the earl. The relationship was passionate and, according to some who knew the couple, occasionally stormy. But this is a suggestion that angers him. Suddenly there is a flash of the old temper. "People row of course, but any hint that our marriage was tempestuous is completely untrue. We were wonderful together."



Carmel and Jeremy Lowndes on their wedding day in 1954

On the night of the murder in July 1992, the couple had hosted a dinner party at their villa for Carmel's son by the earl, Lord Wodehouse, his wife Carol and her brother-in-law, Robert St John. The table was filled with bottles of vintage champagne, fine red wine and the best brandy.

Mr and Mrs Lowndes saw their guests to bed before enjoying a nightcap. Both of them had been drinking heavily throughout the day.

Lord and Lady Wodehouse were woken some time in the small hours by Mr Lowndes. He told them his wife was dead. While Mr Lowndes poured himself another drink to "steady his nerves", Lady Wodehouse went upstairs to find 68-year-old Mrs Lowndes unconscious on the landing outside her bedroom. It was plain she was about to die.

At his trial in Cadiz, Jeremy Lowndes told the panel of three judges that he had been roused from a stupor by his wife's screams. He denied claims by his stepson and Lady Wodehouse that he said to them: "I think I have just killed your mother."

Soon after waking his guests, Mr Lowndes jumped from a balcony, seriously injuring his back and ankle.

The court was told he had said: "I don't know why I did it. Life is not worth living any more."

Mr Lowndes could barely remember the night of his wife's murder and must have jumped while under the influence of alcohol and prescription drugs, the court heard. His defence counsel implied that Lord Wodehouse could have been responsible for the killing. The 45-year-old peer has since inherited his mother's estate.

Even though no murder weapon was produced, and Iain West, one of Britain's leading pathologists, cast doubt on the prosecution's evidence when he appeared as a witness for the defence, Mr Lowndes was found guilty of his wife's murder and sentenced to nine years imprisonment. The verdict was passed to him while he was still recovering from his injuries in the hospital wing of a maximum security prison.

"I was there when my wife died and the frame fitted very neatly around my head," he says. "I was tried by a panel of judges who presumed I was responsible from the start — I was guilty before I limped into court."

His wife tries to stop him talking of his ordeal, knowing the pain that his memories bring. "Please, please ... the whole thing was too terrible," she says. But Mr Lowndes is not to be deterred. "Lots of my time behind bars was totally horrific — complete hell. There were moments of despair, a few times when I cried, which for me is completely out of character — I am not one to buckle under pressure."

His health deteriorated dramatically while he was in jail. His wife pales and grips the edge of the table as he tells how, for 17 months of his sentence, he was treated for "a painful prostate problem".

Once again, she implores him not to dwell on his time behind bars. Once again, he ploughs on: "I had a catheter and a bag — one night I woke to find it full of blood but the warders couldn't have cared less."

> 'The priority now is for us to build our lives together'

Mr Lowndes says he was sustained during his "wrongful incaceration" by letters from the woman who was to become his wife. "Love grew from that correspondence. Before I was jailed, we were just friends," he says.

The new Mrs Lowndes realised, too, that the relationship was changing while her friend was behind bars. "I wrote because I was concerned for Jeremy — I knew he was innocent and was outraged that the court convicted him anyway. Then something else began to grow and there came a point when we both knew we were in love. "We are an ideal couple and the relationship is idyllic, some amazing dream come true. I admire Jeremy so much; he is a man with true grit."

Jeremy Lowndes was freed last August after serving four years of his sentence. All his time was spent in maximum security prisons, despite his age and infirmity. "I was freed for being what they called a model prisoner. There is an other interpretation — I think my lawyer used friends of friends who were well connected in the prison service. That's the kind of country Spain is.

"I still believed in logic until the night my wife died. I really thought justice would prevail and they would find me not guilty, leaving the crime unsolved — murder by person or persons unknown."

Once again he speaks of the close relationship he had with his first wife and the bond that was to grow between them and the woman he would later marry. "Carmel, Barbara and I were the firmest of friends. We all got on from the start and any suggestion to the contrary is quite wrong."

Barbara Lowndes is proud of her new husband. She introduces him to her circle of friends in Wiltshire while protecting him against those who might jeopardise their still fragile security — reporters who arrive at the village in search of the "Costa Killer".

"I love him and he has been through enough already, and both of us are heartbroken at the way this has been handled by some sections of the press," she says. "The past is not important, our future is."

Mr Lowndes is more sanguine. He laughs at his tormentors and promises a book telling his side of the story.

"I had little else to think about while I was in prison, so the writing should not be too difficult. I'll need a brace of libel lawyers at each elbow, though."

So does he claim to know the identity of his first wife's killer? He nods and begins to reply. But once again Barbara interjects. "No, no, no! That's enough ... please just leave the subject alone. Surely that's enough, it is finished, it is over."



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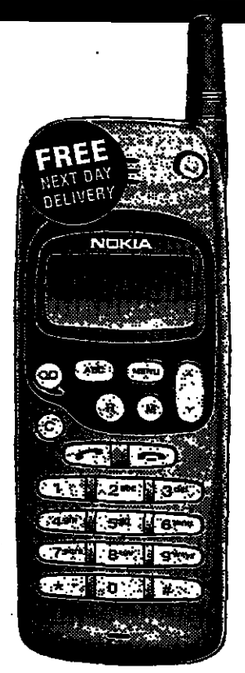
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'She is the smiliest, most playful of babies. It's true a dad can be more affectionate to a daughter'

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW



A year in which Martin Amis's father died, also saw the birth of a daughter. It left him both "strengthened and emboldened"

A year ago, six *months after his* father's death, Martin Amis told me he missed his dad most when he wanted to discuss *some point* of language with him. This may have seemed to some a peculiarly cerebral form of bereavement. But the *shorthand* dialogue between two like minds is the greatest loss. "I'm always dying to tell him *things*," Martin says.

Of course. Mangled, misused words were the lingua franca of Amis *père et fils. How they chortled in derision* at the berks and oiks who could not spell, pronounce or use correctly the word "jejune". (Nothing to do with jeune, and means thin, not puerile.) "Martin and I," Kingsley once told me, "have *our ears permanently pricked* for the way people say things."

Kingsley, who would have been 75 next week, is now back *in the bestsellers with The King's English*, his commonplace book about the state of the language.

I met Martin in The Engineer pub in Primrose Hill. At 47, he finds himself the father of a substantial family (four) and has moved with the writer Isabel Fonseca and their new baby Fernanda into a handsome stuccoed house in the road where his father lived.

It was perfectly possible — as it was with Kingsley — to spend the entire lunch arguing and laughing about words: the mysterious derivation of sycophant (one who shows figs); of penis/pencil; of *meticulous* ("beset by small fears"). "I'm slightly to the left of him, on language as on everything *else*," Martin said. "I don't say 'medi-eval', do you? " (I do, actually.)

He was *astonished to find this* book complete after his father's death. "I used to take the two boys to lunch there every Sunday, *and would go to* have a cigarette in his study. I remember seeing the 'Déjà vu' section on his desk and *thought* it was perfectly perceived and executed. But I rather doubted that there was a book's worth of stuff.

"After his stroke, he would struggle for words, even to complete a cliché. He would still tap away, but Mum said he was battling with the same sentence, day after day. Poor, poor thing.

"So I was amazed, when I got the typescript, at how solid and finished it was, and to find him at his most incisive, fair-minded, and wise. Some reviewers called it idiosyncratic. *What did they expect from* Kingsley?"

The title is an in-joke. Kingsley Amis was not fancying *himself Fowler, or forgetting* that it's now The Queen's English, as foolish pedants harrumphed. "The King" was how he was known among friends — a literary gang-leader, as Charles Moore wrote to *The Spectator* to say. (Close friends addressed him as "Kingers". "Robert Conquest was Conquers," says Martin. "And they referred to Solzhenitsyn as Soldiers".)

I love the book because he deals with my *bête noire*, the now common misuse of "may" for "might" when the outcome is already known. "I may have died" or "The Queen may have got engaged to several other suitors before Prince Philip" are priceless examples that I wish the King were here to share.

"My obsession," Martin said, "is 'if it were' and 'if it was'. I once read, 'If the Big Bang were an instantaneous event' — and thought, well, it's the beginning of time, that long ago, it has to be 'was'. But a philosopher friend tells me great minds have wrestled with this and not managed to get it straight. It's one of the great miasmas of language."

Martin, who took a congratulatory First in English at Oxford, is less classically educated than his father, having small Latin (O-level grade D) and no Greek. On a French TV programme he needed an *interpreter* but so did John Updike and V.S. Naipaul.

'For him, the year 1995-6 moved off the Richter scale'

Still, in the impromptu brilliance of his conversation, and the muscular diligence of his writing, he outclasses his father. He would never use a *word against its derivation*: "You can't say 'a dilapidated hedge' when 'lapis' is stone." His dictionary is well-thumbed, and as Kingsley writes: "The habit of consulting a dictionary is largely dying out." In fact the book's refrain is Going, Going, as in Larkin's morose poem. The apostrophe is going, the possessive gerund is going, the subjunctive is almost gone. Change and decay in all around he sees. Yet it is also full of jokes, *just as Martin's* 1970s *New Statesman* column, This English, was.

Martin supplied his father with several items. it was he who told him about his dentist saying "Open widely". And Martin who heard Jessica Lange at the Golden Globes in Hollywood saying "Lastly but not leastly, I'd like to thank . . ."

Kinsley Amis is scathing of snob usages: "Connexion" is not classier than "connection". But he still sets some arbitrarily snobby U/Non-U traps: crossed sevens are "an affectation": he judges it absurd to pronounce Latin as Latin, not English; he disallows the useful "forever" as in "I'm forever blowing bubbles". He insists that alas is pronounced "alahs." *Pfui! as he would say.*

Most infuriating is "Womanese". The Amises share a conviction that all women are Mrs Malaprops. Most of Kingsley's examples are from Martin's novel *The Information* — "the only page he read: I marked it for him". Martin says all the women in his life mangle phrases, and *his mother. Hilly, is* "world heavyweight champion". (She once said, "Get your A levels, and the world's your lobster".)

It is a relief to see Martin Amis smile. For him, the year 1995-6 moved off the Richter-scale of stress indicators: his marriage broke up; Isabel Fonseca was pregnant; he moved house; he had his teeth expensively fixed. He ditched his agent and his publisher; he was accused of greed and in a painfully public rift, lost his *old friend* Julian Barnes. His long-disappeared cousin Lucy Partington turned out to be one of Fred West's victims. *The Information* was about the mid-life crisis and it became a mid-life crisis: he said all he needed now was the death of a *parent . . .*

However, he says, a crisis strengthens and emboldens you. And it passes. One bonus was the emergence of Delilah Seale, his daughter from a 1975 affair, now an Oxford undergraduate of 21. Two new books are finished. And in November, Fernanda arrived, "the smiliest, most playful" of babies, he dotingly says. He can see what he missed by not knowing Delilah's babyhood. "Girl and boy babies are like kittens and puppies. Boys are noisy, messy and get wet and shake their fur at you. And it's true that a dad can be more affectionate to a daughter. With a boy, even when they're six months old you're on the brink of having the conversation that begins 'This is all very well, but you have to stand on your own two feet. . .' "

His tennis partner, Zachary Leader, editing the Amis letters, says they are mercifully "not too bad" on the *racist/sexist front.* "I said to Kingsley when the Larkin letters came out, 'yours will be even worse, what are you going to do about it?' and he said 'Nothing. I'll be dead, you'll have to deal with it'. One of the few times he referred cheerfully to his own death."

I wonder if Martin will ever shake off the son-of-Kingsley tag. A *New Statesman* competition for unlikely book titles included "Martin Amis: My *Struggle*". Good joke — but the fact that Amis junior should prove to be good as well as lucky was "a bit bloody *much*". "I sort of overstayed Kingsley's welcome, by sticking around, not shutting up after a couple of novels. I came down with a full set of dad's genes and talents, and people thought I'd bucked the work ethic, by my struggle not being a struggle." Is he released from all that now?

"Well, no, because I'm still overstaying the welcome." He *remains* fixed in favour of fiction above biography as revealing of the writer's soul; it is "the only way to redeem the *formlessness* of life, otherwise the stuff itself would strike me as unendurably thin". Come *on, he can hardly call his* recent life thin. "But the entanglements of life are shapeless, just brute happenstance, heavy-handed reality."

He says a writer is, by definition, one who is most alive *when alone.* "But *there's a big* bill to pay. It makes you very detached. I notice, even with the baby, if I'm very preoccupied with writing, and come down and pick her up and kiss her, it's as if she's a stranger, because *I'm so elsewhere.* But that's the only complaint I have against the job." As he told Melvyn Bragg in his *South Bank* interview, there is no point in writing at all unless you think you're the best; every writer thirsts for Johnsonian longevity of esteem, and posthumous survival — but will never know if he gets it.

Kingsley would have winced to hear Sue Lawley introducing *Martin on Desert Island Discs* recently with a howling dangler: "Cool, witty and 47, writing is of overwhelming importance to him." He would also have heard Martin concede to Sue that the death of the intercessionary parent promotes one into the *temporal front line — and that* this is both energising and liberating. "Surely I must now go from boy to man," he said. "I can't, surely to God, still be the Bad Boy, as I approach my fifties."

The King is dead; long live the King; and from what he tells me, the princes Louis and Jacob are a brace of sharp kids.

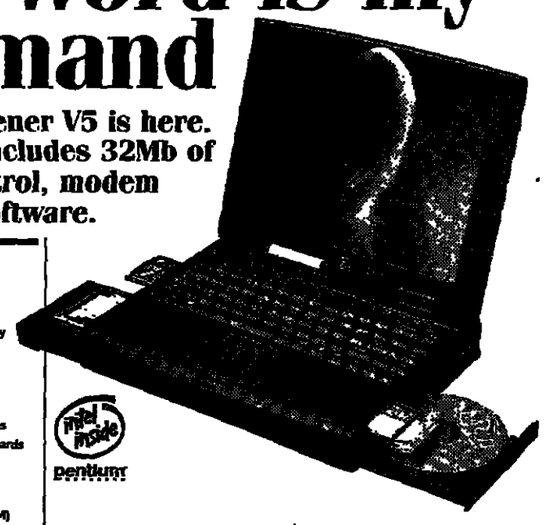


Martin Amis and his new baby daughter Fernanda: "Girl and boy babies are like kittens and puppies," he says

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THE WEEK AHEAD



OPERA

Mark Elder wields the baton as Berlioz's *The Damnation of Faust* comes to the Coliseum

OPENS: Tonight
REVIEW: Wednesday



DANCE

Leanne Benjamin takes the lead as Covent Garden revives MacMillan's ballet *Anastasia*

OPENS: Tonight
REVIEW: Wednesday



THEATRE

Marlene evoked: Pam *Gems's* play about the screen legend comes to the Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue

OPENS: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday



POP

Artist in residence: Bryan Adams plays five nights at the Wembley Arena

GIGS: From Thursday
REVIEW: Saturday

Swept away by the sheer spectacle of it all

MELVYN BRAGG



I cannot remember ever having been in a Roman Catholic country over Easter until ten days ago when I was in Mexico. It seemed appropriate to go to the cathedral on Good Friday morning, but I was unprepared for the power of the spectacle and impact of the service being "performed". Theatre has always been integral to organised religion.

But first there was an even older spectacle than the great Catholic Mass. Walking across Zocalo — the historic centre of the city — where the Spanish conquerors literally overlaid the two principal Aztec pyramids, the sound of drumming ricocheted around the vast square. A small crowd circled dancers who were wearing the huge plumed head-dresses, the multiple anklets and wristlets of soft-sounding shells and the ornamental costumes of the Aztecs.

In the centre of the dancers' circle was a blanket on which were laid various fruits and pots and a bowl of what looked like incense. Periodically, one of the dancers would take up the smoking bowl and as it were fumigate one of the others who then took the lead in the next stage of the dance. There was an endearing bashfulness about the performance which seemed at odds with the dark rhythms of the drums.

Watching such a colourful and intricate display it was difficult to believe that a few yards away, in the reign of one Aztec Emperor alone at the end of the 15th century, it is recorded that 80,000 captives were slaughtered to provide the sun with life-giving blood. The spectacle of slaughter continued on this spot under the Spanish with, for instance, an Englishman, George Rowley, burnt, an Irishman, John Martin, garrotted and burnt, and later, 50 bulls killed in two days to celebrate the canonisation of St Ignatius. Perhaps the Indian dancers were not only reminding us of what had been but still slyly claiming that space which is now dominated by another religion of sacrifice, incense and ritual.

The Blue Guide says that the Catedral Metropolitana de Nuestra Señora de la Asunción is "the largest of Mexican cathedrals ... and the noblest ecclesiastical edifice in the Americas ... its combination of different styles, from Renaissance to Neo-Classical is a reflection of the 250 years it took to complete." I confess that when reading up on it beforehand what most immediately caught my eye were the British connections. "On 13th July 1659 Oliver Cromwell's death was celebrated with Te Deum, High Mass and litanies of Our Lady." It was like pulling a lever at Clapham Junction and seeing a train switch tracks in Kashmir. Then again I read that "the matchless Altar de los Reyes" includes six Royal female Saints among whom were Margaret of Scotland and Edith of England, while Edward the Confessor is one of only three Royal male Saints.

Being abroad always stirs up a curious mixture of domestic loyalties.

It is uncomfortably easy to be sentimental about foreign poverty but in Mexico City, as in other places, one inevitable location for that poverty is the door of the churches and cathedrals. Beggars, many of them small children, the deformed, the bleak-eyed hawkers of weary trinkets form an avenue of pain to the west door, somehow giving the huge artistically munificent structure a core purpose.

Inside, in gloom, the most striking first impression was of great green pillars, a forest of closely criss-crossed scaffolding. The cathedral has been sinking ever since its first beginnings on the marshy foundations which the Aztecs drained so expertly and this is just the latest shoring-up.

But these new pillars, matching, it seems to me, the old stone pillars which give the cathedral such height, soon seemed a part, even a necessary part, of what was happening that morning. There was a procession going around the cathedral led by the Bishop and his acolytes, followed by a life-sized statue of Nuestra Señora de la Asunción held aloft by eight men and they in turn were followed by a crammed congregation, some bearing candles, all ready with the response or the singing when the procession paused and the church was peppered with television sets. The service was being transmitted live.

To a North of England Anglican, all this weeping and idolatry ought to have been anathema. Instead it was impossible to resist being swept up in it, as in any great theatrical event. One reason might be the recurrence of the word *esperanza*. Who else, what else was offering, had offered, hope to so many despite all the cruelties of a religion often appropriated by wicked men? Or was my feeling part of being in a wholly benign crowd, a common mass, with its own mysterious sense of communion? Or was there the knowledge of what delusions and failings as well as quiet acts of heroism had gone before that procession and come from a religion begun by appealing to the meek and the humble?

A few miles away in Iztapalapa, there was a re-enactment of the events of Easter. For three days the parts were played by the townspeople as they have been for 15 decades. This year Christ, a mechanic, was hoisted onto an enormous cross, his chest bleeding from the lashes. Over two million people joined that procession. Yet again it turned into spectacle — this time television — where some could have thought it the real thing.



NATIONAL MUSEUMS & GALLERIES OF WALES



Flint Castle, North Wales (1835), one of the works in Eric Shanes's meticulous sift through the Turner bequest's "rag-bag" of watercolours

What Turner did first

VISUAL ART:
Isabel Carlisle
on the Tate's *glimpse into the* master's method

There are 19,300 works on paper alone in the Turner bequest, housed in the Tate's Clore Gallery. In this latest in a series of shows by outside scholars, Eric Shanes has tackled what must be the most challenging of the 365 categories into which Alexander Finberg organised the drawings and watercolours in 1904-09. Called *Colour Beginnings*, it is the rag-bag into which Finberg threw everything too vague to be identifiable.

Shanes's two years of detective work, which included exploring the Plymouth estuaries to try to identify just two watercolour sketches, have yielded impressive results. Not only has he pinpointed the location of around 80 of the 390 works in this catalogue section, he has come up with new information on the way Turner built up his finished watercolour scenes. Turner was notoriously secretive about his working methods, but the mass of evidence he left behind lays bare his mind in the act of making ideas visible in paint.

The Beginnings, unlike Turner's pencil drawings, were done not in the open air but in the studio, as a complementary part of the preparation for a finished work. Broadly they are divided into sketches (experiments that lead nowhere discernible) and studies (the basis for an identifiable scene). Some of the sketches are paper-tests in which Turner tested how the hard, smooth, legal vellum that he used took up certain colours. He might then turn the random splotches into a landscape. Some are roughly painted scenes put in a bucket of water to lift the pigments and create subtle diffusions of tones that conveyed atmospheric effects. Most are extremely sketchy, like the studies, and show Turner using his extraordinarily visual memory to play around with different combinations of tone, mass and colour.

The studies are what we would find underneath a work such as *Powis Castle, Montgomery*, with a hunter aiming at a heron in the foreground, were we able to strip away the figures and the details. In a Beginning abandoned by Turner and thought to be for an Italian view, Shanes has identified an alternative underpainting for Powis Castle. Four very faint horizontal grey lines across the slopes of a distant pink mass were the linking clue to the stepped terraces of the castle. A splash of crimson turns out to be Turner's visual short-hand for death, in the shape of the hunter.

Shanes's successful matching of many of the colour sketches with finished works points away from reading these Beginnings as essays in abstraction and therefore from seeing them as works of art in their own right. I found it impossible, however, not to respond to these deliquescent washes, with blotted clouds in streaked skies and rapid strokes of loaded colour in the foreground to indicate trees or buildings. They may not prefigure American Abstract Expressionism, but they surely have an emotional link to Turner's later oils of Venice, which took atmospheric abstraction to its limits.

● Turner's Watercolour Explorations 1810-1842, *sponsored by Magnox Electric, is at the Tate Gallery, Millbank, London SW1 (0171-887 8000) until June 8*

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IN SECTION 2

POP: A professional but processed show from Eternal. Plus, disappointment from a star line-up at Shepherds Bush



Britain's other platinum-selling girl band, Eternal, gave the popcorn-munching faithful what they came for

The sound of a well-oiled machine

When popcorn sales appear to be upstaging the beer concession at this charm-free venue, you can be sure that family entertainment is the order of the evening. The Australian newcomers *Human Nature, opening the show here* but already gold-selling pin-ups back home, warmed young hands and hearts with a polished routine that featured their forthcoming UK debut single *Wishes*. The countless other groups stacked like sardines in the boy band market will just have to make room.

Headliners Eternal have enjoyed three and a half years of unbroken and, until recently, unrivalled success, their stride not even checked by Louise's departure for a star on her own door. Since last summer, of course, the melting pot of competition among all-girl groups has got rather warmer, thanks to the new dominant flavour of five-Spice.

Such global supremacy may be in another league to Eternal, but then Easther and Vernie Bennett and Kelle Bryan are not the same cut of pop wannabee as the Spice Girls. One has watched them build firm foundations with a seamless series of well-tailored singles and two enormously successful albums, and with their third set, *Before the Rain*, selling more than 100,000 copies in its first seven days on sale last month, their batteries still seem quite able to power the machine.

Yet as their relentless rise reached its inevitable apogee on this arena tour, it was hard to shake the conclusion that Eternal are becoming just that, an entertainment "machine" with many of the showbiz clichés that entails. So ambitious are the production values of this new show, so obsessive the attention to image, costume change and grandiose set-piece, that the singing is almost an encumbrance. Thus on Friday evening, a Disney-esque air of make-believe descended: at times it was more like a visit to a circus than a concert, a spectable easy to watch, even to admire, but not to interact with.

Eternal
Wembley Arena

Their grand entrance was spun out over five minutes onto a set that was part space launch and part game show. They were eventually lowered to stage level on a kind of hydraulic swing to perform *Power of a Woman*, wearing bizarre, over-sized leather and PVC creations. Over the next 90 minutes, all three young women worked astonishingly hard with an exacting set that was almost a variety performance in itself, with individual showpieces like Kelle's tap dancing take on Michael Jackson's *Jam* and Vernie's besuited remake of Peter Gabriel's *Big Time*. Vocally, Easther took the driving seat as ever and never put a note wrong.

Thus their popcorn-munching faithful got what they came for, but in a curiously uninvolving show, Eternal seemed to have completed the journey from pop music to showbusiness, a sojourn on which spontaneity is just so much excess baggage.

PAUL SEXTON

Not Ike's night

FRESH from cutting an all-star album with more guests than a Forte Travelodge, the guitarist Joe Louis Walker chose London to showcase two of them — the home-based axeman Otis Grand and, more importantly, the famous or, according to your point of view, infamous Ike Turner.

While Turner's personal values may have been questioned, his musical ones never have. Here is an artist whose roots stretch all the way back to Howlin' Wolf and Elmore James. Teaming him with Walker, one of the most soulful of the new generation of black blues artists, must have seemed an inspired move. Yet for all the talent on show, this was a sadly low-key, sometimes disjointed, evening which never lived up to its initial promise.

It started well enough with Walker displaying his updated brand of the kind of chunky rhythms and testifying vocals that used to come out of the Stax studios in the 1960s and 1970s. Then Grand was called on stage to play a lap steel in

Joe Louis Walker and Ike Turner
Empire, W12

an unexpected but welcome homage to the Texan steel guitar master, Hop Wilson.

Off went Grand, on came Turner. Well, almost. In an incident which summed up much of the evening, there was an introduction, a fanfare, but no Ike. "I guess he's still upstairs," said a sheepish Walker as the band riffed away. Turner finally appeared wearing white tie and white tails, looking remarkably good for his 65 years. He settled down at the keyboards for an almost solo Ray Charles-like number before launching into a pleasant, if slightly perfunctory, version of the old Joe Turner warhorse, *Shake, Rattle and Roll*. Getting into his stride, Turner followed that with a powerful boogie that "Pinetop Perkins taught me about 50 years ago". As the evening started to warm up, Turner switched to guitar and shared the vocals with Walker on *Early in the Morning*.

What appeared to be a classic night in the making then went awry as Ike introduced his wife Jeanette, a blonde, Pamela Anderson lookalike who shimmied on stage for a couple of songs and then shimmied off.

The rest of the evening had Turner switching from guitar to piano once more for a version of *Rocket 88*, and then letting Walker back into the spotlight as the show started to get back on to an even keel. By then, it was too late. The barn-like atmosphere of the Empire didn't help, more rehearsals would have eliminated the pauses between numbers, and the audience wasn't that receptive either. In the words of Turner's old Memphis chum B.B. King, the talent was here, "but the thrill had gone".

JOHN CLARKE

Minghella's silence

HAPPILY timed to appear while Anthony Minghella is man of the month, a new theatre company (Rascal Productions) has revived a stage version of his 1989 radio play, originally also directed by himself and, like *The English Patient*, a winner of prizes.

The programme does not reveal who adapted the script for the stage, and perhaps only a minimum of adaptation was required since the essence of the piece is a young woman's decision to stop speaking, and the dialogue consists of attempts by her friends and lovers to combat this seemingly inexplicable act. In the theatre we are able to see the silent Gemma as well as not hearing her, though something of her radio persona as a blank screen survives in David Shields's set, where books and bookcases, flowers and vase are all paper-white. However, look more carefully and these items are seen to belong to the stage territory where Gemma's friends complain about her. The space she inhabits, stretched out on cushions listening over and over again to the St Matthew Passion, is bright with colour.

Her smart, loquacious, north London friends provide possible clues to her behaviour: a Vietnamese orphan seen on an Italian holiday; a Tibetan monk immolating himself as a political protest; a bag lady at Waterloo. Minghella portrays her social contemporaries as casually unfeeling, although references to suicidal mothers provide reminders that death crosses all boundaries.

THEATRE

Cigarettes and Chocolate
Man in the Moon

In nearly every scene of Christopher G. Sandford's absorbing production, the characters speak against a background of other people's noise. Bach himself is treated as background by Charlie Burnell's Rob, until Gemma ups the volume on her CD player and thus turns Rob's whingeing into the infernal noise she has positioned herself against.

Sandford's cast articulate Minghella's variously distinctive speeches with unusual clarity, and the glimpses into the lives of Gemma's set are intriguing enough to leave one always wanting to know how their anecdotes will end and what can happen next. Precise acting from Burnell, from Julie-Kate Olivier's chilled wife and Claire Stockley's gushing mother-to-be, from Colin Peel's tolerated lover and from Jane Allighan's pre-Raphaelite-faced Gemma. From Jackie Sawiris, too, as an Argentinian psychiatrist now working as a cleaner, whose trembling lip when atrocities are mentioned would have been impossible to detect on radio.

JEREMY KINGSTON

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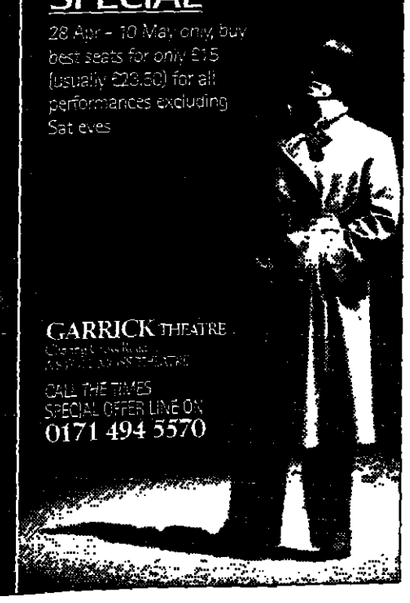


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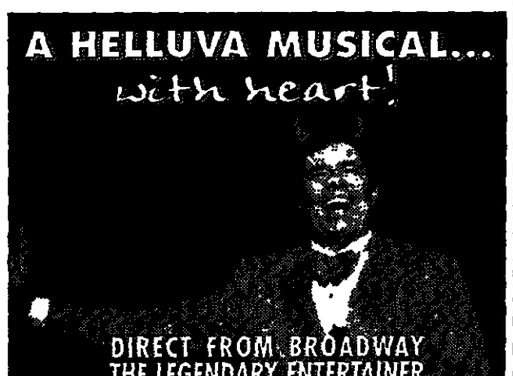
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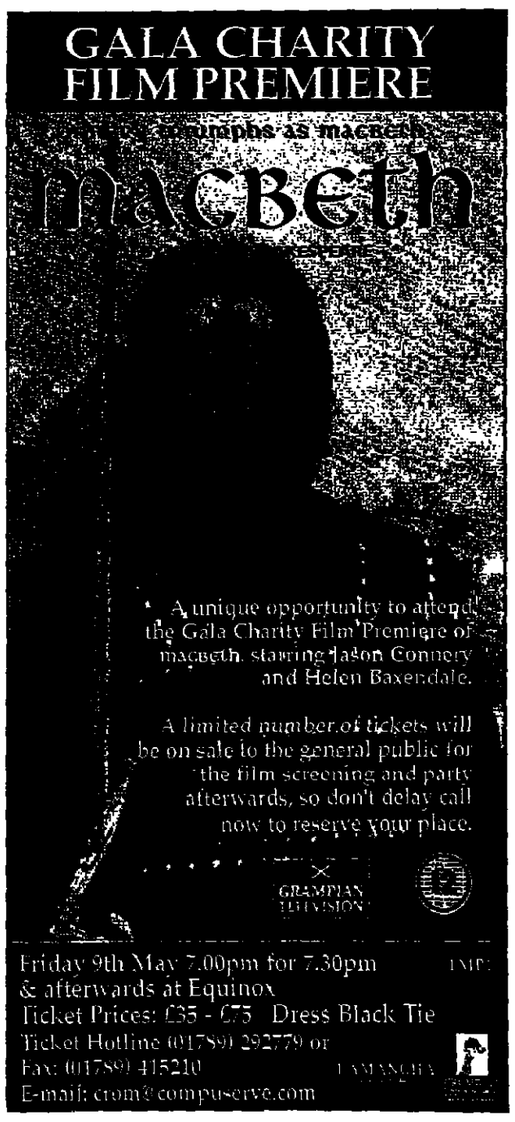
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Cicero's guide to the election

Peter Stothard on Paddy Ashdown's Golden Age

Once upon a time, long *before people who* gave electioneering advice were celebrated as spin-doctors, a certain very famous politician was fighting his first election for the consulship of Rome. Marcus Tullius Cicero, orator, intellectual and a man with little experience in public office, was campaigning in 63 BC against some of the best known, richest, most rapacious (and altogether sleaziest, as we would say) members of the Roman establishment. Cicero, like Tony Blair, seems to have been bright enough to recognise that he needed some *help — and in the first "Hand*book of Electioneering" to survive from the ancient world, he got it.

I was reminded of this on Saturday when Paddy Ashdown, after a week of watching headless chickens and bite-sized manifesto chunks, *launched a desperate attack* on the evils of the modern electoral process, damning the dominance of spinners and the dependency of office-seekers, praising by contrast the virtues of the lonely Liberal Democrat hero on his battle-bus. Before he tries to make this his travelling theme for the rest of the month, it would *be worth his while to jour*ney back in time a couple of *millennia*.

The supreme piece of campaigning advice for Cicero in the consular elections of 63 BC was one that Peter Mandelson and his men have inculcated in Labour from the beginning: focus, focus, focus and focus once more. As the Handbook *has it*: "Every day as you go down to the Forum, repeat to *yourself over and over again* the words 'I am new . . . I seek the consulship . . . I am new . . . I seek the consulship . . .' Do not give up this 'morning meditation' until polling day is past."

The next most important tip from the ancient electioneer is to believe your own publicity. If the candidate believes *that he is new, different and* virtuous, so will the electorate. To quote the Handbook again: "Although nature is strong, an assumed personality can overcome the natural self for at least a campaign of a few months."

The third lesson is to recognise the vanity of your supporters and their desire to be part of a winning team. "Small-town and country folk *think themselves our friends if* we only know them by name. And that word 'friend', you should remember, has a wider application in an election than in the rest of life. Anyone who shows you some goodwill or calls upon you regularly is to be counted as a friend."

The fourth point is that support can often be bought very cheaply. "Very small promises", the writer insists, "*can induce men to think they* have a sufficient cause to support us." The fifth line of advice is "to canvas continuously and to solicit the same people many times so that no one can say he has not been canvassed by you — and thoroughly and diligently canvassed too".

The sixth is to gain publicity for your own brilliance and even greater publicity for "the crimes, lust and briberies of your competitors". He tells his client to remember how "in a previous election one of your *opponents* actually bought a young girlfriend in the open market and brazenly flaunted her as his own".

If we take all of these precepts together, it is hard to think of a pamphlet that so *accurately sets out the role* of the modern campaign man*ager in the age of new Labour*, Neil Hamilton, direct mail, Millbank Tower, Piers Merchant and the overwhelming requirement to stay "on message".

Mr Ashdown may not, of course, have been sincere in his weekend lament for the *days of politics without spin*-doctors. The Liberal Democrat leader, with his military record, airy rhetoric and self-conscious nostalgia, is arguably the most Roman of all the candidates in this election. His *profile is certainly better suit*ed to the back of a bronze coin *than either John Major's or* Mr Blair's. Perhaps he was *just promoting a line that he* thought might win him votes, a tactic that the Handbook writer would most surely have endorsed.

Or perhaps he was simply being squeamish, content that advisers should advise but concerned that they were get*ting too much publicity*. The self-described party of open *government may prefer that* that spin-doctors stay hidden *in their surgeries*. We are not, so far, seeing the like of Des Wilson in this Liberal Democrat campaign.

Perhaps. And yet, I have a sense that Mr Ashdown really believes in his Golden Age, *that he yearns with all sin*cerity for the days before the *Mandelsons and Wilsons and* Saatchis were invented. It is a refrain that we have heard repeatedly over the past two weeks: why can the advisers not clear off and let the candidates be themselves. It is a hopeless refrain. It is hopeless because the art of democracy has been a science for as long as democracy has existed.

What was the election result in 63 BC, you may be asking. Well, Marcus Tullius Cicero, the new man facing the Roman establishment for the first time, won the consulship. Sergius Catilina, a thoroughly deserving target of the anti-sleaze campaign, was defeated. *Did the victor follow the* Handbook's advice down to *the last letter? The great* beauty of this particular spin-doctor's art is that we do not fully know.

The exact status of this fascinating 5,000-word text remains a mystery. Some scholars attribute it to Cicero's elegant younger brother, Quintus, who could thus be described as the Robert Kennedy of his time. Others, citing its un-Ciceronian style and *rather too joyful use of jargon*, have different explanations.

The truth, like the true records of Smith Square or Millbank today, could of course have proved embarrassing. The Handbook of Electioneering carries no fingerprints. It seems entirely fitting to the tradition of campaign management that this pio*neering work should be direct*, useful, cynical, true — and also, even two thousand years later, one hundred per cent deniable.

The future of the world may depend on the Middle East talks beginning today in Washington

What has the new Jerusalem in store?

William Rees-Mogg

Today's Middle East talks in Washington may decide the future of the world. In 1972, the *Americans were trying to promote* peace between Israel and Egypt; Golda Meir, the Prime Minister of Israel, remained too suspicious to make concessions to Anwar Sadat, the President of Egypt. That failure led to the 1973 war, which destabilised *the oil supply of the world. Later* on, the Camp David accord showed that President Sadat had been quite genuine in his proposal. The world economy took ten years to recover from the oil shocks.

At that time, President Mubarak *was the Deputy President of Egypt*; like Sadat he has proved the most *reliable moderate of the Arab world*, the rock on which American Middle Eastern policy has been based, and one of the cornerstones of the peace process itself. Last week he said: "Since 1977, the peace process has not degenerated to such a low level. The *situation is very dangerous, and I am* worried about what will happen." If *he is worried, we all need to be* worried as well.

What is at stake? First of all, the survival of Israel. I find that my older Jewish and Israeli friends have become increasingly pessimistic about the future for Israel. Some of them have given their lives, and committed their children's and *grandchildren's lives, to the Israeli* ideal. They now doubt whether there will ever be true peace, and therefore doubt whether Israel can ultimately survive the unending pressure of the Arab millions. Some react to that by sadly and silently withdrawing their spiritual confidence in Netanyahu's Israel, others by believing that Israel must be ever tougher, a fortress in the desert. All feel the same distress.

It is not only the survival of Israel that is at stake. The Arab order has always looked precarious, but it has shown an amazing capacity for survival, different as the regimes are. I can remember an editorial discussion at the *Financial Times* — then still a small City paper produced in Coleman Street — in the mid-1950s. King Hussein of Jordan had just survived one of the numerous attempts on his life. One of us — perhaps it was one of *my own mistaken forecasts — said*: "I doubt if he can last three months." The others nodded their solemn agreement. He is still there 40 years' later. Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Syria, Kuwait and the Gulf states, even the Palestinians themselves, have shown a similar resilience of apparently unstable regimes. Most of *the regimes have actually lost wars* and yet still survive.

Yet each setback in the peace process tends to radicalise the Arab world; it strengthens the extremist, terrorist and fundamentalist groups; it tends to discredit moderate governments; it alienates the young. One cannot assume, just because they *have survived so many things in the* past, that the moderate regimes would all survive a final breakdown in the peace process; certainly they might not be able to remain moderate. Yet the failure of the peace talks of 1972 led to the war of 1973 and to the oil shocks of the 1970s. With the growth of the Asian economies, *including Japan and China, the world is in* some ways more vulnerable to an oil *shock than it was then.*

Since the murder of Yitzak Rabin, who was a just and strong man, the peace process has been greatly weakened. The immediate issue, which the Israeli Prime Minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, will be discussing with President Clinton, is a local and apparently even trivial one which has become the focus of the main power struggle. Opinion among *both Israe*lis and Palestinians has been in*flamed by the Har Homa* building project. The Israelis see it as a normal development of the suburbs of Jerusalem, matched by other developments for Arab families. The Arabs see it as a provocative extension of Israeli housing on Arab land. Avigdor Kahlahani, the Israeli security *minister, is probably nearest to the* truth when he says that "the battle of Jerusalem has begun". The Har Homa question will not be decided on its contested merits as an urban development, but as the focal point for the battle of Jerusalem.

*Mr Netanyahu and President Clin*ton have to decide how to handle this *situation. Har Homa is itself a polit*ical problem. It would not be easy for Mr Netanyahu to stop the building plans: 52 per cent of Israelis, the equivalent of his majority at the last election, favour going ahead with the building against the protests: to halt the project would be a loss of face. Against an opponent as experienced in political manoeuvre as Mr Arafat, Mr Netanyahu can ill afford to climb down.

The American position before the talks contains a number of elements. There was the reassurance to Israel of last Thursday's announced increase in military aid; there will be support for small concessions to the Palestinians, including further sites for Arab building. The United States will press Mr Netanyahu to reduce the scale of *new Israeli settlements, but Wash*ington probably does not expect him to cancel Har Homa, or even think that he could afford to do so. All of this will not be enough to prevent a continued deterioration of the situation on the ground, with more riots, more bombs, and more deaths on both sides.

So far, Washington has wanted *to continue the policy of gradu*alism in the peace talks, fearing that an attempt to tackle the big issues would lead to an irrevocable breakdown. Now opinion is changing. Different reports, presumably coming from different American *sources, say that the United States* is still in favour of the gradual approach, or, as from Bronwen Maddox in Washington, that "the United States has been pressing Israel to adopt a coalition 'government of national unity' and to move soon to talks with Yassir Arafat about the future of Jerusalem." This is the high-risk, high-gain strategy.

This forward strategy seems already to have persuaded Mr Netanyahu. He must be convinced that *otherwise the situation* can only continue to deteriorate. He is taking *to* Washington his own proposal to move rapidly to the most difficult issues, including the future status of Jerusalem. Mr Arafat probably agrees that the talks should be accelerated, but he is essentially a bargainer. He will not expect to get *everything he wants at once*, but further talks, with Israel under *pressure*, could give him a negotiating advantage. He would expect to gain some concessions.

Binyamin Netanyahu's formal position — as Christopher Walker has reported it — is still one that no Palestinian leader could accept and expect to remain leader. He has committed himself to allowing "no *retreat to the* 1967 borders, no Palestinian state, no division of *Jerusalem*". He will not be able to secure any final peace settlement without the acceptance of a Palestinian state. Some revision of the the pre-1967 borders in favour of Israel is a perfectly legitimate objective, which might possibly be achieved *in negotiation against* the acceptance of a Palestinian state. *Jerusalem*, the city of faiths, is the core issue, as it has been since 1967, when a *Times* leader for which I was responsible inadvertently awarded the long-term suzereinty of Jerusalem to the Palestinians in the first edition and to the Israelis in subsequent editions. *Jerusalem is an object of* human idealism so intense that no *one who possesses it will give it up* without a battle, and anyone who has recently lost it will seek to regain it. Belfast is a similar insoluble problem city, as President Clinton has already found. But Jerusalem is a far greater historic prize, and hence a greater historic problem, than Belfast could ever be.

The convenience of silence

The box of sticky truths will fly open in 25 days' time, writes Peter Riddell



Remember Helmut Kohl and Eddie George. They have not been popping up on our television screens recently, but what they said last week may *have a bigger impact on us all after* the election than most of the promises *in the manifestoes* and the safety-first exchanges of the politicians.

All elections exist in a cocoon, an inward looking world of images, claims and counter-claims, phoney initiatives and alleged gaffes. Perspective and proportion are soon lost. Outsiders, however distinguished, seldom break into this self-absorption, which suits the desire of the parties to define the election in their *own terms. This has been taken to* extremes by Labour's determination to *remove any possible area of vul*nerability, as yesterday over privatisation and the single currency. Politicians are happy to talk toughly in general to boost their leadership images, but they seldom refer to any specific sacrifice someone might have to face.

Take the economy. Neither the *Tories nor Labour are willing to* admit what is predicted by virtually *all economists* (and, to be fair, the Liberal Democrats): that after the election taxes and interest rates will have to rise. Kenneth Clarke pretends that everything is fine, the economy is growing at an sustainable rate, and that the Tories' multi-billion-pound manifesto promises on transferring tax allowances and the like *can be afforded without other tax* increases. No wonder the Treasury *wanted to water down the manifesto* commitments. Mr Clarke's dilemma is summed up the Tories' crass poster slogan, "Britain is booming". Not only has Mr Clarke tried to avoid talking about a "boom" — since that implies the risk of over-rapid growth — but if there is a boom, now is not the time to be promising further tax cuts.

Gordon Brown complains that the Tory figures do not add up, and yet he cannot admit the need for monetary and fiscal tightening, for fear of being accused of planning such measures. Instead, he merely talks about Labour's plans not requiring additional taxes, so he can appear shocked and horrified in a month's time if he becomes Chancellor when he sees "the books". Of course, he *already knows perfectly well what the* true position is. He has fostered false expectations by talking about cutting VAT on domestic fuel and aiming, as "a long-term objective", for a 10p starting rate of income tax.

The Governor of the Bank of England *shattered these illusions last* Thursday when he warned that interest *rates should rise to slow the rapid* pace of expansion and to guard against inflation. Mr Clarke dismisses his well-known differences with Mr George as merely being about a quarter of one percentage point, but that trivialises and muddies the matter. If the economy is as strong as the Tories claim, interest rates should rise soon, although given the strength of sterling and market uncertainties *there is probably an even stronger* case for several billion pounds of tax increases and public spending cuts. Mr Clarke should be able to fend off Mr George until polling day, but the Chancellor and the Governor are due to meet on May 7, six days later. Do not expect the politicians to prepare voters during the campaign for higher interest rates then, let alone *for higher taxes later.*

There is a similar air of make-*believe about the debate about* Europe. John Major and Robin Cook seemed to be *competing yesterday* over who could add the more "verys" to "unlikely" in describing the chances of Britain entering a single currency in the next Parliament. But that will not be the most pressing European matter after May 1. Nor is the most crucial consideration whether or not Britain signs the social *chapter, important though that could* be in the long-term for business costs and regulation.

The real question is what attitude a new government takes at the Amsterdam summit of European leaders in June. The Tories argue that only they will assert Britain's national interests and resist the tide of integration, *while Labour talks as if everything* will be all right because it will be able to build new partnerships in Europe, while opposing a "federal super*state*". *Much of this is wishful* thinking. The difference is over the leaders' room for manoeuvre. Tony Blair would be able to agree some limited extensions of qualified majority voting and revision of the powers of the European Parliament. The Tories oppose such changes, but as some MEPs have been warning, the party's inflexible stance risks making negotiations impossible and making *other countries even keener on a* multi-tier Europe.

Both main parties oppose many proposals likely to be put forward at Amsterdam for closer integration of foreign, defence, immigration and home affairs policies. There has, for example, been hardly any discussion in our election of the Franco-German plan for moving towards a European defence policy separate from Nato. *But the reality behind these aspira*tions was underlined on Thursday *when Chancellor Kohl concluded his* annual slimming retreat in Austria *with the announcement that he* would seek re-election next year. Whether or not he succeeds then, the Chancellor's decision will give fresh political momentum to the drive for monetary union and closer integration. So Britain will face tricky choices which the Tories and Labour are trying to dodge in the election.

The Civil Service has, I am sure, a list of other pressing issues for the *incoming government which* are hardly being discussed in the election: the handover of Hong Kong to China; the Madrid summit on expansion of Nato (almost solely a matter for foreign policy specialists in Britain); the looming crisis in the prisons as numbers overflow; how to revive talks in Northern Ireland (despite the IRA's latest operations). These and other matters will have to *be faced within two months of the* election. For the moment, the politicians prefer the familiar evasions of campaigning. But the real world is just 25 days away.

Free vote

KENSINGTON is fizzing with speculation on the voting intentions of Diana, Princess of Wales. She is registered, along with the other 70 residents of Kensington Palace, to vote in the Campden ward of Kensington and Chelsea, a safe Tory seat which should fall into the sweaty clasp of that old satyr Alan Clark at the election.

While she was married to the Prince of Wales she was bound by convention not to exercise her right to vote. Now, however, she is more of a free agent, and may be inclined to take her revenge on the Tories. She has her reasons.

First, there was the Defence Minister, Nicholas Soames, a friend of the Prince, who publicly questioned her mental state after her *Panorama* interview. Then there was the junior defence minister Earl Howe, who as good as told her to keep her snout out of politics when she spoke out about land mines. Clark's adulterous past may not play too well either on the fitness machines.

None of which has stopped the Tories pitching for her vote. "With her interest in charities, the Princess will be aware that charitable giving is growing tremendously *under this Government*," says a desperate spinner in Tory central office. The Lib Dems hope the Princess will be enticed by their plans for nursery schools, but Labour will not comment. None of the parties has so far formulated *plans for door-stopping the palace.*



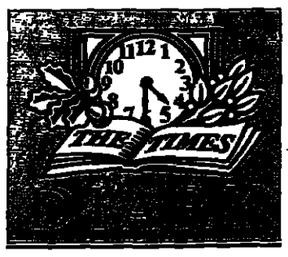


Ward-mates. Diana and Tory candidate Alan Clark

● *Among those caught at Aintree over the weekend was Robin Cook, Labour's foreign affairs spokesman and racing tipster. Yesterday he returned to pick up his car, only to find his keys were in a sealed off area. Having missed a Dimbleby interview and torn up the rest of his schedule for the day, he wandered into the road telling a policeman he was off to do some sightseeing.*

Last Waugh

PITY Auberon Waugh, once a peerless establishment baiter, now gone soft and captaining the holed dinghy of *The Literary Review* magazine. The other day, he received an



invitation to a party being held by *a certain wealthy philanthropist*. Waugh had been greatly looking forward to some grand hobnobbing, until he read the name on the card: "Evelyn Waugh".

For a man never fully reconciled to living in his father's shadow, this was a stinging insult. He spent the rest of the day shuffling around muttering like a Russian poet broken by a stint down the salt mines.

Final frame

ONE of cinema's landmarks was demolished on Friday by Camden Council. William Friese-Greene shot a series of images on celluloid of Rotten Row in Hyde Park in 1890. He then projected the moving pictures onto his wall at 136 Maida Vale. So excited was he by his work, which marked the beginning of cinema, that he grabbed a policeman off the street to come in and look, a moment recorded in the film *The Magic Box*, which starred Robert Donat and Laurence Olivier. Not that this meant anything to Camden Council.

In Paris, the home of Lumière, the inventor of the cine-camera, is a national museum, but when Friese-Greene's home was knocked down, all the council building officer could say was "Who cares? It was a very grotty little building."

High flyer

IT used to be Sir Tim Bell or Rothschilds bank that helped aspiring Tories in need of work between elections. Now Michael Green, the elusive chairman of the media group Carlton, has joined the gang. With his current director of communications, David Cameron, expecting to keep the Stafford constituency Tory, Green has found one of the Prime Minister's closest aides to replace him.

George Bridges, 27, is currently assistant political secretary to the PM, responsible for writing many of his speeches and newspaper articles. All wispy blond hair and tortoiseshell glasses, Bridges, from Eton and Oxford, is a high-energy customer, and his office is entertained by an endless succession of cut-glass female voices phoning to talk to him.

● *A notable victory for Alan Stanford, who is directing Harold Pinter in Pinter's own play* The Collection *at the Gate Theatre, Dublin. He claims to have triumphed over Pinter in an argument over the text. As Pinter's publishers, Faber & Faber, can attest, the black poloneck is a textual stickler. Once, at his insistence, they had to insert a correction slip into thousands of copies of his plays because a full stop had been printed instead of a comma.*

Eh? Eh?

DESPITE the panning handed out to his debut novel, *Sap Rising*, A.A. "Don't call me Adrian" Gill can console himself that he still has one loyal fan in the shape of his girlfriend, Nicola Formby. On entering the Pan Bookshop in the Fulham Road last week, Miss Formby, a statuesque shopping journalist, was dismayed not to be able to find her man's novel.

"She asked very loudly and aggressively where it was", says an onlooker. "She introduced herself as Nicola Formby and expected the hapless shop assistant to know who she was." Happily, a large pile of the books was pointed out to her on a display table, at which point she *snorted* and left.



Nicola Formby: snorted

P·H·S

OUT OF THE RACE

Politicians must ignore IRA attempts to influence the election

The IRA disruption of Saturday's Grand National was a carefully conceived political coup designed to influence the general election and its aftermath in Sinn Fein's interests. It was the continuation of republican politics by odious means. IRA strategists choreographed the scare to secure headlines and make Northern Ireland's future an essential issue in this campaign.

Although the Prime Minister has argued that republicans are wholly wrong if they think that by threatening thousands of people they will win support, the IRA will be well satisfied with its work. The more that republicans make violence a problem, the better placed Sinn Fein believes it will be to pose as the solution.

Republicans are attempting to blackmail the Northern Ireland electorate and the next British government into voting for, and talking to, them as the only route to peace. The only appropriate response from voters and politicians should be an uncompromising rejection of a movement itself incapable of compromise. Republicans wish to make what they depict as the violent consequence of Northern's Ireland present constitutional position a central issue in this election. If they can restrict disruption to the British mainland, so much the better. Voters in Ulster will be forcibly reminded of the continuance of the conflict without, republicans hope, being too directly affected. Blame for the violence is placed on the British Government for having shown "bad faith" and allowing the peace process to collapse.

This is historical nonsense and a dangerous myth, which constitutional politicians should not nurture with careless talk. The blame for the collapse of the peace process rests entirely with republicans and their decision to go back to war even though the offer of talks without prior decommissioning was on offer. It was foolish of John Prescott to imply earlier in the campaign that blame should attach to the Prime Minister for mismanaging the process. Mr Major, like the voters of Northern Irleand and the racegoers of Aintree, is the victim of republican cynicism.

Having chosen war, Sinn Fein now has the audacity to claim that a vote for it is a vote for peace. The republicans are trying to persuade Northern Ireland voters that strong support for Sinn Fein at the polls will make it more difficult for a future British government to deny the party a place at talks. Sinn Fein hopes that the voters will back it not necessarily out of enthusiasm but in the hope that a republican entry into talks will bring an end to violence.

Northern Ireland voters should resist the Provisionals' protection racket. Far from interpreting an increase in their vote as a yearning for peace, republicans will use it as evidence of support for their strategy. The tactical use of the armed struggle would have yielded one of its results, the cowing of Ulster's population.

The other intended result is the weakening of the British Government's resolve. Comments by Dr Marjorie Mowlam, the Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary, concerning the desirability of a ceasefire and the prospect of Sinn Fein's entry into talks after two months, have been read by republicans as a promising sign.

The only effective way to respond to the IRA's strategy is to proceed without it. Rather than courting republicans, Dr Mowlam should be concentrating on how to bring together democratic parties, Unionists and nationalists, to give Ulster stability. There is no point in trying to negotiate with the republicans; their strategy is unchanged and unchanging. Unless republicans prove their commitment to peace by throwing down the weapons they flourished in Belfast last week, there is no merit in treating with them. The Grand National should go ahead today without republican intervention and so should the peace process.

POLICY AND THE WORLD

Labour wants to focus on rights, aid and the Commonwealth

Douglas Hurd's proudest boast was that since the Conservatives came to power, Britain has been "punching above its weight." Ever since the Falklands War, the party argues, Britain has had a military and political influence far beyond its wealth and geography. It has taken part in all the main United Nations peacekeeping operations. It is an active member of the UN Security Council, often formulating the resolutions that determine world affairs. It still exerts an enormous influence through a network of contacts in traditional areas of influence such as Africa and the Middle East, and through the world dominance of English and the two bodies spreading British culture in that medium, the British Council and the BBC. In short, if the feel-good factor is yet to assert itself at home and is clearly absent in Europe, in the world beyond our Continent Britain is booming.

Labour has no interest in quarrelling with such an assertion. Foreign policy is largely bipartisan, and Labour has supported the Government in the global issues that have preoccupied Britain, the wars in Bosnia and the Gulf, political and economic reform in Russia and Eastern Europe, enlargement of the European Union and Nato, Hong Kong, the Middle East and the environment. In large swaths of foreign affairsLabour policy needed no wrenching modernisation. Neither was there partisan advantage to be gained by harrying the Government. Foreign policy will therefore play only a small part in the campaign.

Nevertheless, Labour has now discovered areas where it thinks the Conservatives are vulnerable. Some are those where Labour has traditionally taken a high moral tone: overseas aid and human rights. Under the Tories, the proportion of GNP devoted to foreign aid has fallen from 0.51 to 0.29 per cent. And while the Conservatives have pioneered the successful Know-How Fund to help former communist countries adapt to market economies, help for the world's poorest has decreased. Giving taxpayers' money to foreigners is never popular, but Labour believes it can tap into the idealism of a young generation that has generously supported refugees and the world's starving. A Cabinet-level Minister for International Development would be a signal that not all Labour's soft-hearted policies have been cast aside.

On human rights, Robin Cook has already signalled a more aggressive approach. In most areas the cost is cheap: calling for oil sanctions against Nigeria or a trade and tourist boycott of the military junta in Burma carries a comparatively small price. The bigger test will be whether Labour would risk export sales by offending tribal Gulf rulers. It has denounced their crackdown on democrats and dissidents as vigorously as it has the Government's "craven" safeguarding of arms exports.

More effective is Labour's new-found championing of causes traditionally dear to Tory voters, the Commonwealth, the British Council and the diplomatic service itself, all of which have felt starved of funds and attention. Government disregard for the Commonwealth stemmed from Margaret Thatcher's contempt for its insistence on tougher sanctions against South Africa and the "liberationist" rhetoric of Third World members. But many Conservatives see the Commonwealth as a vibrant legacy of earlier days when Britain punched above its weight. In this field, as in domestic affairs, Labour wants to steal their clothes.

FULL CYCLE

Times and costs have changed for environmentalists



Fashionable ideas have a life of their own which can make them impervious to reason. Well-meaning consumers glow with pride as they toss a bottle into the recycling skip, having carried it there in the back of the car. They dutifully collect heaps of old newspapers, believing that they are helping to save the Amazon rainforest. The creed is simple: dumping rubbish in the ground is bad: burning it is worse; the only virtuous option is to recycle it.

Economics makes nonsense of most of these claims. The money saved by recycling a kilo of glass will drive a car only a mile and a quarter. Glass is made from sand, a raw material that is plentiful and cheap. Scrap glass saves at most a third of the energy needed to make glass. Set against that the extra energy costs of transporting the waste glass, and the whole scheme begins to show its limitations. In effect, one raw material is being saved at the cost of another, in a process that leaves everyone the poorer.

As for paper, it comes from a raw material that is the world's best candidate for long-term sustainability, wood. Trees are a renewable resource, and those that are used for making paper come almost entirely from managed forests in the North. Only one per cent of the world's paper is harvested from the rainforests, which are being cleared for agriculture, not to satisfy the developed world's appetite for newsprint. Paper can be recycled economically, but government targets such as those set by Germany disrupt the system, creating a surplus of waste paper that has to be dumped on other countries, depressing prices.

Insisting that paper suppliers meet a fixed recycling target generates yet further difficulties, by forcing countries without enough waste paper of their own to import it so that they can export it again as finished paper. Even the most besotted environmentalist cannot believe that sending shiploads of waste paper from Germany to Scandinavia makes economic sense.

In the US, reality may be breaking through. Marion Barry, the Mayor of Washington, has decided to suspend the city's elaborate recycling scheme on the grounds that it is a luxury the nation's capital can no longer afford. The division of household waste into plastics, aluminium, glass and paper pushes up collection costs to a massive $200 a ton, while simple collection would cost a mere $25 a ton.

The problem is that the value of household waste is low, no greater in money terms that it was in 1950. Then labour was cheap, and raw materials expensive, so that the value of the waste would have justified efforts to separate and recycle it. Since then the cost of raw materials has fallen, while the cost of labour has risen, tilting the balance against recycling. But persuading green ideologists of this uncomfortable fact may not be easy, as Mr Barry is about to discover.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

House of Lords: reform v abolition

From Mr John Birchmore

Sir, The democratic form of second chamber is one elected by universal suffrage (letters, March 25 and 31). Any other proposal implies a lack of faith in the electorate or a suggestion that democracy does not work.

I for one have had enough of the elitism of the current system; I support having an elected second chamber forthwith and will accept any shortcomings.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN BIRCHMORE,
24 Lyne Park,
West Linton, Peebles-shire.
April 5.

From Mr Marcus Elliott

Sir, Your correspondence concerning the reform of the House of Lords appears to omit the ultimate reform — abolition.

A second chamber is required and it must be within the grasp of a modern industrialised country to devise some form of election to such a body (the Americans managed it over 200 years ago).

Most observers agree that the House of Lords does its job well, but that does not alter the fact that it is wrong.

Yours,
MARCUS ELLIOTT,
Pen Dinas,
Great Orme, Llandudno, Conwy.
April 4.

From Mr Patrick Forde

Sir, Does the House of Lords inflict harm or annoyance on anyone other than the Government of the day, from time to time?

If not, why change it?

Yours,
PATRICK FORDE,
Seaforde Estate Office,
Seaforde, Co Down.
March 25.

Labour and unions

From Mr Robbie Gilbert

Sir, Much of our employment law, particularly an employee representation, now derives from Europe — which is why Labour's proposals for statutory recognition of trade unions (Tony Blair's article, March 31) look so strange and worrying to many businesses.

Works councils with rights of information and consultation are the usual arrangement for workplace representation on the Continent, and the European Commission has well advanced plans to extend them to every undertaking with more than ten employees. Employers have their doubts about the desirability of these committees, but as Mr Blair would sign the Social Chapter, the likelihood is that all but the smallest British companies will, in due course, be required to introduce something along these lines here too.

Why, then, do we need recognition laws such as those in force in the United States? By importing them to a UK bound by European law, we could end up with more onerous and restrictive obligations on British firms than those applying elsewhere in Europe, and British firms alone could find themselves obliged to run a parallel system of local negotiations. These cover much the same ground, and impose an additional and much more demanding obligation to reach agreements with trade union officials on these and other matters.

The risks are clear: conflicting accounts of employee views, too much management time being taken up on industrial relations, damaging delays in decision-making, and/or loss of flexibility which will damage exports and jobs.

Yours faithfully,
ROBBIE GILBERT
(Director for Social and Employment Policy),
European Public Policy Advisers,
12-14 Denman Street, W1.
April 1.

Power of office

From Mr F. G. R. Fisher

Sir, In October 1959, in my first term as headmaster of Bryanston, a general election was called.

I suggested to the boys that we should hold a mock general election in the school. The proposal was greeted with a degree of apathy. In order to stimulate interest I floated the idea that, in addition to the three main parties, there should be candidates representing other interests — for example, Cornish nationalism.

A few days before the election debate a worried head boy arrived in my study. "Headmaster," he said, "I think you should cancel the election. There has been a pitched battle in the main hall between the Realists and the Idealists." Cancel a general election? Now, there was a thought.

In the event, the election took place. But I had glimpsed power.

Yours faithfully,
ROBSON FISHER,
Craig Cottage, Lower Street,
Dittisham, Dartmouth, Devon.
April 6.

Sport letters, page 38

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

Action demanded for Scots guards

From Major-General Murray Naylor and Lieutenant-General Sir David Scott-Barrett

Sir, We are writing to you in what remains of the life of this Government to publicise the situation of two Scots Guardsmen who have now been in custody in Northern Ireland for four and a half years.

The facts are briefly as follows. When on operational patrol in Belfast on September 4, 1992, guardsmen James Fisher and Mark Wright were involved in an incident as a result of which a man was shot dead. The circumstances were fully investigated, they were subsequently charged with murder, tried before a judge-only Diplock Court, found guilty and sentenced to a mandatory sentence of life imprisonment. Subsequent appeals have been dismissed or refused.

Last December a High Court judge, Mr Justice Girvan, ordered the Northern Ireland Office to review the two soldiers' cases, in the process quashing the NIO's decision not to do so before the end of 1998. As far as we can ascertain this internal review has not progressed very far and, despite pressure from MPs, members of the House of Lords, the media and from many people of different backgrounds and viewpoints across the country, there appears little urgency within the NIO to expedite matters.

Meanwhile, the two guardsmen languish in Maghaberry prison devoid of hope, doubtless contemplating how the course their lives are taking is being determined by the political expediency which seems always to rule in Northern Ireland.

While the two guardsmen made a tragic error of judgment, both acted in good faith, in pursuit of an operational policy laid down by the Government which sent them to Ulster. They were caught up in the maelstrom of bigotry and resentment which so often dictates what happens there. To be condemned to an interminable period for carrying out orders seems to be grossly unfair.

We believe it behoves the outgoing Government and the present Secretary of State to review these cases as a matter of urgency. Indeed we consider that they have a clear duty to do so.

Yours sincerely,
MURRAY NAYLOR,
DAVID SCOTT-BARRETT,
Headquarters, Scots Guards,
Wellington Barracks,
Birdcage Walk, SW1.
April 2.

Modern morality

From the Earl of Longford

Sir, When the subject of homosexuality, and in particular "gay" Christianity, comes up (letters, March 29) I inevitably parade my ancient medals.

About 40 years ago I was the first public man who dared initiate a debate in Parliament in favour of the Wolfenden report which recommended that sex between consenting male adults in private should no longer be a criminal offence. A little earlier I had founded, with the help of others, The New Bridge for all ex-prisoners. I still treasure Lord Boothby's description of me as "the non-playing captain of the homosexual team".

No Christian will blame those who love men more than women though they may feel sorry for them. But never at any time did I suggest that sex between men is morally permissable.

Two of the Evangelists, Luke and Mark, describe Christ as placing adultery at the top of the list of sins. How could any "gay" Christian seriously suggest that sex between men is morally superior to that between a man and a woman outside marriage? The Archbishop of Canterbury has reminded us that in Christian eyes sex outside marriage should be regarded as shameful (report, March 25).

St Augustine said it clearly for all time — we must condemn the sin and love the sinner. Bearing in mind that we are all sinners in our various ways we do well to follow St Augustine's guidance.

Yours sincerely,
FRANK LONGFORD,
House of Lords.
March 31.

The cult phenomenon

From Mr Ian Haworth

Sir, Contrary to the assertion by Dr Peter Haywood of the Maudsley Hospital and the Institute of Psychiatry that most cults recruit "adolescents or just post-adolescent outsiders" (Medical briefing, March 28), the opposite is the case. People of all ages are recruited. The 39 who died in California (report, same day) were between the ages of 20 and 72, with most in their 40s.

Dr Tonmoy Sharma, a psychiatrist at the Maudsley, also suggested that in some cases those attracted to cults are less well balanced than normal. This is another promotion of a stereotype. Experts in the US who for 20 years have researched the cult phenomenon suggest that most victims are normal and healthy prior to involvement.

The most vulnerable are intelligent, well educated and economically advantaged. They are professional people and high achievers.

Yours sincerely,
IAN HAWORTH
(General Secretary),
Cult Information Centre,
BCM Cults, London WC1N 3XX.
April 1.

Custody of children

From Dr Richard Freeman

Sir, The tragic separation of the Laylle children from their mother and now living with their German father (Body and mind, April 1) is not unusual. It happens to British men who are similarly excluded by the rulings of courts, the prejudices of society, or unilateral action by the mother.

In the Laylle case a man took his children back to his own country to care for them. If a woman had behaved similarly I suspect it would be considered no more than a mother fulfilling her duty of care.

The presumption of UK society, supported by the courts, is that mothers have a greater right to be with, care for and enjoy their children than do fathers. This implied right is translated into actuality if the children have lived with one parent immediately after a break-up so as to prevent further distress. It is no more the mother's right to keep the children than it is the father's. The British have a Victorian mindset to the contrary.

Yours etc,
RICHARD FREEMAN,
101 Castle Street,
Saffron Walden, Essex.
April 2.

In every pie

From the Chief Executive of the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health

Sir, We wholeheartedly echo the point made by Sir Anthony Alment regarding the unhygienic practices of TV cooks (letter, April 2). Cookery programmes are watched by millions of people, many of whom are responsible for preparing food for young families. These would seem an ideal medium through which to get across basic food hygiene messages, with a view to helping reduce the ever increasing number of food poisoning cases.

Instead we are subjected to TV cooks wearing rings the size of ostrich eggs, tasting food with their fingers and using raw eggs in food without giving the necessary warnings about the possible health risks.

We appreciate that cookery programmes must entertain, but it is a wasted opportunity not to use them at the same time to educate and inform the public.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL COOKE,
Chief Executive,
Chartered Institute of Environmental Health,
Chadwick Court,
15 Hatfields, SE1.
April 2.

PRO museum

From Mr Paul Luscombe

Sir, The Public Record Office's bid for lottery funding to establish a museum at Kew (report, March 17) should be debated rather than left for officials and their consultants to decide.

The idea of such a museum is not, of course, new. I have beside me the catalogue of museum exhibits published by the PRO in 1948 which also describes the grounds used to justify the opening of the museum at Chancery Lane in 1902. Interestingly, the reasoning of the then deputy keeper, Sir Henry Maxwell Lyte, was much the same as that of the present keeper: to attract more people to the PRO.

At least two things have changed since 1902. One is the technology for transmitting information. The other is that the records are immeasurably less accessible now, not only because the PRO has moved to Kew, but also because far more of its "real" users (or its potential clients) are located outside the home counties. There are strong arguments for using the technology to decentralise the PRO and for persuading its mandarins that most serious research takes place outside London.

Experiments with the Internet are welcome (particularly if the objectives are better focused than achieving a few thousand visitors to the web site), but there are other ways of making the resources of the PRO genuinely available to libraries, schools, colleges and universities. Investment in an easily accessible micro-form copying service and developing a range of inexpensive learning materials on CD-Rom are two possibilities. If asked, the various sectors of the education world could probably suggest other ideas.

Have the capital and running costs of a new museum been properly tested against other proposals, or are the vested interests in the current proposal too entrenched to take a broader view? And has the thinking in the PRO about the rest of the country changed since 1902?

Yours sincerely,
PAUL LUSCOMBE,
8 Newbold Close, Bentley Heath,
Solihull, West Midlands.
April 4.

Are we learning to beat IRA's tactics?

From Mr Kenneth Hoole

Sir, At the start of the Second World War a solitary Heinkel, it was said, could bring much of the country almost to a stop. The sirens would go and the shelters would fill. We eventually realised that this was not the way to win the war and sirens began to sound only locally and as required.

Now, much smaller bombs, and sometimes no bombs at all, close large parts of London, Aintree, much of the Midlands and beyond.

What is the answer this time? We must find one soon. At present the IRA is winning on points.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH HOOLE,
105 Wood Vale, SE23.
April 6.

Soaking up science

From Dr D. W. O'Hara

Sir, Nigel Hawkes ("Jogging scientists solve problem of staying drier", March 27; letters, April 1 and 4) quotes a formula that describes how wet a moving meteorologist gets in the rain. I must point out that this formula, in which the top surface area (T) is independent of the velocity (v), is strictly applicable only to legless meteorologists.

A running person's legs alternately project in front of and behind his torso, and his mean top surface area depends on the extent of this projection. I measured a sociologist (no meteorologist being to hand at the time), and found that the mean horizontal component of the surface area of the legs while jogging would be roughly equal to the surface area of the shoulders. For a sprinting sociologist, the effect would be even more pronounced.

I am left reflecting on the means of propulsion employed by the meteorologists to whom the formula applies. It would certainly provide a fair approximation to a fat meteorologist with skinny legs, or alternatively, to a scuttling meteorologist in a raincoat. Since neither would be likely to achieve the speeds cited in the report, I can only conclude that it is intended to describe a meteorologist on a skateboard.

Is it possible that the legless nature of these meteorologists explains why they keep getting caught out in the rain?

Yours faithfully,
D. W. O'HARA,
9 Blenheim Drive, Bredon,
Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire.
April 5.

School style

From Mr J. P. Toomey

Sir, The dress of teachers has perhaps always been a matter for critical gaze (report, "Broke teachers are labelled scruffs by smart pupils", March 27). When I started teaching Classics in the early 1950s, the "designer clothing" of the day was sports jacket and flannels, a dress frowned upon by some of the older masters with their dark but visibly chalky suits.

But gowns covered any sartorial sins, and allowed for idiosyncrasy. I remember that the senior maths master's gown had belonged to his grandfather, and was not only in rags but green with age; and I confess that mine, having been gradually shredded by door handles and other obstacles, had its tattered sleeves tied up in knots and was held together elsewhere by safety pins.

Like teachers' dress today, it must have excited some critical comments from pupils, but in those days, of course, they kept such comments to themselves.

Yours faithfully,
J. P. TOOMEY,
3 St Bartholomew's Road,
Areley Kings,
Stourport-on-Severn, Worcestershire.
March 27.

Seeing it through

From Mrs J. Mansfield

Sir, I am dismayed that for many years I have been using my tartan shopping trolley, not realising that it is the "sine qua non of frumpery" ("Trolley dollies", Style, April 2). But then I have been labouring under the misapprehension that the purpose of a shopping trolley is to make light work of transporting one's shopping.

I now realise that it is really a means of displaying one's (expensive) purchases in order to impress others.

Yours faithfully,
JANET MANSFIELD,
12 Oxhill Road,
Middle Tysoe, Warwickshire.
April 2.

Seeing stars

From Mr Keith Kellett

Sir, I read with interest yesterday your report that British Forces television is to scramble its broadcasts in Cyprus to prevent non-Service viewers picking up its programmes, including those featuring Cilla Black, Jim Davidson and Mr Blobby.

Might I ask if there are any plans to introduce such a scrambling service in this country and, if so, how I join?

Yours faithfully,
KEITH KELLETT,
5 Burwood Close,
Amesbury, Salisbury Wiltshire.
April 3.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 5: The Duke of York this afternoon attended ceremonies marking the amalgamation of the Royal Auxiliary Air Force and the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve at Royal Air Force Cranwell, Lincolnshire.

His Royal Highness was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Lincolnshire (Mrs Bridget Cracroft-Eley).

April 5: The Princess Royal, accompanied by Captain Timothy Laurence, RN, today attended the *150th Anniversary of the* Grand National at Aintree Racecourse, Aintree, Liverpool, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Merseyside (Mr Alan Waterworth).

KENSINGTON PALACE
April 6: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon this afternoon visited Tewkesbury Abbey and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Gloucestershire (Mr Henry Elwes).

Her Royal Highness attended a Service of Thanksgiving for the Restoration of the Abbey and the Dedication of the Milton Organ.

The Princess Margaret, Countess of *Snowdon subsequently* opened the new Visitor Centre at the Abbey.

Royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh will open the enhanced facilities at the Windsor Leisure Centre, Windsor, at 2.30.

The Prince of Wales will tour and open the new Gordon Highlanders Museum, Viewfield Road, Aberdeen, at 10.15; will visit, as President, The Prince's Scottish Youth Business Trust, 27 Albyn Place, at 11.55 to review the work of the Grampian region; will attend a civic reception at the Beach Ballroom, Aberdeen, at 1.00 to mark the official opening of the Gordon Highlanders Museum; will tour and open The Prince Charles Cadet Training Centre, The Prince Charles Barracks, at 2.20pm; and will visit, as Patron, The Abbeyfield Society, the Abbeyfield House, Torphins, Aberdeenshire, at 3.30.

The Duke of Gloucester, as Patron of the Heritage of London Trust, will visit Thorpe Coombe House, Forest Road, Walthamstow, at 10.00; will visit the Clock Tower, Caledonian Market at 11.00; will visit St Luke's Churchyard, Old Street, Islington, at 11.55; and will attend a luncheon at Sir John Soane's Museum, Lincoln's Inn Fields, at 12.40.

Chetham's School of Music

Term starts today at Chetham's School of Music. Lower School Speech Day will be held in School during the afternoon of July 2, and that evening Lower School pupils will give a concert at the Royal Northern College of Music. Term ends with the Senior School Speech Day, which will be held during the afternoon of July 3, and that evening Chetham's Symphony Orchestra and Chorus conducted by Jac van Steen will perform in the Hallé Proms Series, both events in the Bridgewater Hall, Manchester.

Royal Air Force

The Chief of the Air Staff was represented by Air Vice-Marshal C.R. Spink, who read a lesson, at the annual service of thanksgiving held yesterday at St Clement Danes, Strand, to mark the formation of the Royal Air Force.

The Rev Peter Bishop officiated and gave an address. Air Marshal Sir John Kemball also read a lesson.

Birthdays today

Mr Dennis Amiss, cricketer, 54; Viscount Brentford, 64; Miss Fredda Brilliant, sculptor, 89; Mr Jean Colonna, fashion designer, 42; Mr Francis Ford Coppola, film director, 58; Mr Gerry Cottle, circus proprietor, 52; Sir Geoffrey Cox, former Editor and Chief Executive, ITN, 87; Mr Luca Cumani, racehorse trainer, 48; Professor Sir Graeme Davies, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Glasgow University, 60; Professor D.R. Denman, land economist, 86; Mr Peter Fluck, satirist and puppeteer, 56; Sir David Frost, broadcaster, 58; Mr F.L. Garner, former chairman, Pearl Assurance, 77; Mr James Garner, actor, 69; Sir Terence Harrison, former chief executive, Rolls Royce, 64; Mr Geoffrey Heywood, former president, Institute of Actuaries, 81; Vice-Admiral Sir Arthur Hezlet, 83; Mr D.N. Ireland, Headmaster, Loughborough Grammar School, 61; Mr Gorden Kaye, actor, 56; Mr Martyn Lewis, broadcaster, 52; His Honour John MacManus, 77; Mr Cliff Morgan, former head of outside broadcasting, BBC Television, 67; Mr Arthur K. Potter, Indian civil servant, 92; Mrs Jane Priestman, former director, architecture and design, British Rail, 67; Mr Ian Richardson, actor, 63; Mr Andrew Sachs, actor, 67; Pandit Ravi Shankar, sitar player, 77; Group Captain Mary Shaw, former director and matron-in-chief, PMRAFNS, 64; Miss Alison Shrubsole, former Principal, Homerton College, 72; Mr David J. Williams, Chief Constable, Surrey, 56; Mr Geoffrey Windsor-Lewis, honorary secretary, Barbarian Football Club, 61; Mr Mark Wolfson, MP, 63;

Forthcoming marriages

Mr C.E.St.L. Malet and Miss R.L. Cane
The engagement is announced between Charles, son of Sir Harry Malet, Bt, and Lady Malet, of Western Australia, and Rachel, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Timothy Cane, of Kirby Bedon, Norfolk.

Mr S.G. Mandis and Miss A.E. Kairis
The engagement is announced between Steven, younger son of Mr and Mrs George D. Mandis, of Chicago, USA, and Alexandra, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Nicolas G. Kairis, of Lausanne, Switzerland.

Mr B.D. Peutherer and Miss M. Garrett
The engagement is announced between Brian David, younger son of Mr and Mrs Peter Peutherer, of Huddersfield, and Marion, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Colin Garrett, of Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire.

Mr W.T. Smedley and Miss J.L.V. Whitehorn
The engagement is announced between Bill, only son of Mr and Mrs Derek Smedley, of Lilley, Hertfordshire, and Janey, younger daughter of Colonel and Mrs Andrew Whitehorn, of Stoke Mandeville, Buckinghamshire.

Marriage

Mr T.T. Tait and Miss C.A. Luffman
The marriage took place quietly on Saturday, April 5, in Richmond, between Thomas Tait and Carole Luffman.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: St Francis Xavier, Jesuit missionary, Navarre, Spain, 1506; John Elwes, miser, Westminster, 1714; Charles Burney, musicologist, Shrewsbury, 1726; William Wordsworth, Poet Laureate 1843-50, Cockermouth, Cumbria, 1770; François Marie Charles Fourier, socialist writer, Besançon, France, 1772; Randall Thomas Davidson, Baron Davidson of Lambeth, Archbishop of Canterbury 1903-28, Edinburgh, 1848; Bronislaw Malinowski, anthropologist, Kraków, Poland, 1884; Gabriela Mistral, poet, Nobel laureate 1945, Vicuna, Chile, 1889; Sir David Low, political cartoonist, Dunedin, New Zealand, 1891; Billie Holiday, jazz singer, Baltimore, Maryland, 1915.

DEATHS: Sir William D'Avenant, Poet Laureate 1638-68, London, 1668; St Jean Baptiste de La Salle, founder of the Christian Brothers, Rouen, 1719; Dick Turpin, highwayman, executed, York, 1739; Phineas Barnum, showman, Bridgeport, Connecticut, 1891; Henry Ford, car manufacturer, Dearborn, Michigan, 1947; Theda Bara, silent film star, Los Angeles, 1955; Jim Clark, world champion racing driver, killed in an accident, Hockenheim, Germany, 1968.

Mount Vesuvius erupted, 1906.

WHO, the World Health Organisation, was established in Geneva, 1948.

Dag Hammarskjöld, a Swedish civil servant, was elected UN Secretary-General, 1953.

CND supporters marched from London to Aldermaston in a ban-the-bomb protest, 1958.

NACHELLE GROWTHER



Princess Margaret at Tewkesbury Abbey yesterday where she attended a service of thanksgiving for the restoration of the abbey and dedication of the organ

Nature notes

THE latest wave of summer visitors to arrive in Britain are the blackcaps, who have wintered around the Mediterranean. They deliver a rich, rapid song as they flit restlessly through the young leaves looking for insects. The male's caps are black, the female's brown.

Garganey are arriving in small numbers from tropical Africa. They are a small, fast-flying duck, and the drakes have a conspicuous white stripe over the eye. They will nest in the long grass by lonely pools. In the fields, corn buntings are singing their jangling song on



The blackcap

the tops of tall hedges. Most of the males will acquire several mates, and will watch over them carefully but will do little to help them.

The blackthorn hedges are in full flower, and look like snowy-white barricades round the fields. Cherry-plum is also often found in hedges: it looks very like blackthorn but its twigs are not so spikey.

Here and there, English elms have survived Dutch Elm disease, and these now have clusters of papery seeds on the twigs. Wych elms, which were less affected, have striking clusters of large, creamy-green seeds. Wood anemones are opening on the woodland floor.

DJM

Royal Air Force College Cranwell

Air Chief Marshal Sir William Wratten, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief Headquarters Strike Command, was the Reviewing Officer at the Graduation of 78 officers of No 164 Initial Officer Training Course and 11 officers of No 262 Specialist Entrant and Re-entrant Course from the Royal Air Force College Cranwell on April 3.

Graduating student officers and officer cadets:

General Duties Branch - Pilot
Flying Officers G Duff BEng, B W Farquhar BEng, D J Fulton BA, G T Harvey BSc, C R Lynham BA, R K J McPhee AMIMechE, N J Ormshaw BSc, R J Tomala BPharm.

Pilot Officers J R Barley BEng, L C Caple BSc, D R Ellacott BSc, J A Freeborough BEng, D J Grindal BEng, M R Lea BA MEng, G C Melville BEng, C J Morton BSc, M B Payne BSc, S J Staudinger BEng, D C Wilson LLB, A J Wright BSc.

General Duties Branch - Navigator
Pilot Officers J S Belford BSc, G E Bundock BA, G T Davies BEng, M A Galbraith BSc; Acting Pilot Officer T J Warren.

General Duties Branch - Air Electronics Officer
Flying Officers T G Croydon, M Meleady.

Operations Support Branch
Flying Officers P Dendy, G K Thorpe.

General Duties (Ground) Branch - Air Traffic Control
Flying Officers S J Underwood, G K Wadeson BSc; Pilot Officer B C B Thorpe BEng; Acting Pilot Officer M P Greene.

General Duties (Ground) Branch - Fighter Control
Pilot Officers G S Jenkins BSc PGCE, R M Sowter BEng.

General Duties (Ground) Branch - Intelligence
Pilot Officers R T D Hollin BSc MA, A J Siddall BA.

Engineer Branch
Flight Lieutenants A D Gadney BEng, N H Kirk BEng.
Flying Officers S Chapman, G G College, P H Collis, B J Dunn, C N Higton, A K Potter, C I Rodley MEng, T J Shrewsbury, T R A Strachan, G T Styles, D J Townsend; Pilot Officers R D Anderson BEng, B D Hake, J E Harle BEng, L A Newcombe BEng.

Supply Branch
Flying Officers D J Brabner BEng, K Coughlin BEng, M J Place, J A Symons BSc; Pilot Officers P J Clarke BSc, S J E Gregory BSc, A W J Grist BSc, S L Kingston BA, P D Smith BA; Acting Pilot Officer R Matthews.

Administrative Branch - Secretarial
Pilot Officer J A Hone

Administrative Branch - Training
Flight Lieutenants J C Gunther BSc PGCE, D E South BA PGCE.

Security Branch - RAF Regiment
Flying Officers R J Lane, J H Liston BSc, P G J McCarthy; Pilot Officers L M Ives BA, P R Iveson BTh, R G Jones BAcc, E A M Slater BSc.

Foreign and Commonwealth students
Ghana Air Force
Supply Branch
Flying Officer F Odoi-Wellington BA

Jamaican Defence Force
Pilot Branch
Second Lieutenants M A Beek, B Creary, J P Mullings.

Graduating officers of the Specialist Entrant and Re-entrant Course

Legal Branch
Flight Lieutenants A Mardell LLB, N J Moore LLB.

Medical Branch
Flight Lieutenants A Butt MB BS BSc, M T Davies BSc MB ChB, J A Huntbach BSc MA MB BChir, J B Stammers MA BM.

Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Service
Flight Lieutenant T M Hopper RGN; Flying Officers Y Bathgate RGN, P J Stratford-Fanning RGN, I S Swain RGN.

Administrative Branch - Physical Education
Flight Lieutenant A J Treweek BSs MSc PGCE.

Prizewinners of No 164 Initial Officer Training Course
The Sword of Merit, awarded to the RAF cadet who, during Initial Officer Training, has demonstrated outstanding ability, leadership and other officer qualities and potential for further development: Student Officer C R Lynham BA.

The Hennessy Trophy and Philip Sassoon Memorial Prize, awarded to the RAF cadet who, during Initial Officer Training, has proved to be the best all-round cadet, other than the winner of the Sword of Merit: Student Officer R T D Hollin BSc MA.

The British Aircraft Corporation Trophy, awarded to the RAF or Foreign and Commonwealth cadet who has attained the highest marks for professional studies on the course: Student Officer R McPhee BEng.

Overseas Student Prize, awarded to the Foreign and Commonwealth cadet who has produced the best overall performance in leadership, officer qualities and professional studies on the course: Officer Cadet F Odoi-Wellington BA.

The Group Captain Williams Memorial Trophy, awarded to the RAF cadet who, during Initial Officer Training, has shown the greatest improvement: Student Officer S L Kingston BA.

The Sarah Moland Memorial Prize, awarded to the RAF cadet who, during Initial Officer Training, has demonstrated outstanding qualities of courage and fortitude: Officer Cadet G J McCarthy.

The Longcroft Trophy, awarded to the cadet who has contributed most to sport during his/her IOT Course: Student Officer L A Newcombe BEng.

Prizewinner of No 262 Specialist Entrant and Re-Entrant Course
The Daedalus Trophy, awarded to the student who, during training on the Special Entrant and Re-Entrant Course, has proved to be the best all-round cadet: Student Officer M T Davies BSc MB ChB.

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Moses answered: 'Do not be afraid. God has come only to test you, so that the fear of him may remain with you and preserve you from sinning.' Exodus 20 : 20.

BIRTHS

CORNER - On March 11th 1997 at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, to Michele (née du Toit) and Andrew, a daughter, Elizabeth Alice.

McINTOSH- on April 5th 1997 to Pauline (Née Beattie) and Graeme, a daughter Abigail Jane.

MOLESWORTH-ST.AUBYN - On March 27th at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, to Carolyn (née Tozer) and William, a son, Archie.

MONTAGUE - On 24th March 1997, to Emily (née Batchelor) and Robert, a son, Alexander Simon, a brother for Natasha.

RANDALL - On Friday 4th April 1997 to Karen (née Pollock) and Peter, a daughter, Rebecca Bente Amble, a sister for Sarah and Nicola.

SIMPSON - On 28th March 1997, to Jane (née Cowan) and Richard, a daughter, Emily Charlotte.

WILLIS - On April 3rd 1997, to Celia (née Ridley) and Nick, a son, Jack Michael.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

BAINBRIDGE:THORNLEY - Harold P.T. Bainbridge and Shirley Nance, the daughter of H.G. Thornley MBE. Happy Golden Anniversary with love from The Family.

DOBBS-REEVES - On April 7th 1947 at St George's Church, Stamford, Roland to Dorothy. Now at Ripe, BN8 6AX.

DEATHS

BRITTEN - On April 3rd 1997 in hospital following a stroke and after 34 years valiant striving against disability, Rae Britten C.M.G. aged 76. Greatly missed by wife Joanna and loving family Nicky, Hilary, Clive and Aanle, sister Pat and grandson Louis. His was a long diplomatic career focusing on India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Jamaica and Norway. Funeral at Randalls Park Crematorium, Leatherhead, Friday April 11th at 11 am. Family flowers only but donations to the Friends of Capelfield Surgery c/o F.W. Paine, 108 High Street, Esher, Surrey KT10 9QJ.

CLARKE - Stanley George of Seething, Norfolk, passed away 2nd April after a long illness courageously fought, aged 60. Former Director of Trimoco. Adored husband of Melita, much loved father of Julia and Sarah. Funeral at St Margaret's Seething, Wednesday 9th April at 12 noon. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Hodgkins Disease and Lymphoma Association c/o Gordon Barber Funeral Directors, 2 St Williams Way, Thorpe St Andrew, Norwich NR7 0AW.

DEATHS

DUTTA - Dr. James. Medical practitioner in London, previously Civil Surgeon in Burma, passed away peacefully on 3rd April 1997. Beloved husband of Madhuri, father of Topsm, Robene, Mishti, and much loved grandfather. Funeral at Golders Green Crematorium 2pm on 15th April. Family flowers only but donations if desired to Mathieson Music Trust (Calcutta) c/o Leverton and Sons, 624 Finchley Rd, London NW11 7RE.

FROST - Phyllis Ena, wife of the late Bernard Frost, passed away peacefully on 3rd April 1997 in her 91st year. Much loved Mother of Michael, Sheila, and Malcolm. Funeral Service to take place at Thanet Crematorium on Tuesday 8th April at 2 pm. No flowers by request, but donations in her memory to "Tear Fund" c/o Gore Brothers Ltd., 35 Addington Road, Margate, CT9 1NH.

JEPSON TURNER - Peacefully at her home in Scotland on 2nd April, Rosemarie Helen (née Lucas-Tooth) aged 80 years. Dearly loved wife of the late Major R.W. Jepson Turner and mother to Anthony and Louise. Cremation Service in the large chapel Inverness Crematorium on Thursday 10th April at 11am. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to Macmillan Nurses. Thanksgiving Service in Hampshire will be announced later.

LAURENCE-LESLIE-SMITH - died on 3rd April. Deeply mourned by his relatives and friends. Funeral on Tuesday 8th April at the Liberal Jewish Cemetery, Pound Lane, Willesden, at 1pm.

MUSGRAVE - Joan aged 89 years, tragically in a road accident whilst out walking on Easter Sunday. Much beloved mother of Thea and much missed aunt, cousin, neighbour and friend. Cremation Service at 11 am on Monday 14th April at the Mortlake Crematorium. Family flowers only. Donations to Marie Curie Cancer Care, 28 Belgrave Square, London SW1 with whom Joan worked for many years.

POMEROY - Robert William, peacefully on 5th April aged 81 years. Beloved husband of Anne and father of Henry and Richard. Funeral service in Nunney Parish Church on Friday April 11th at 2.30pm. No flowers please. Donations if desired to Nunney Church.

RATHBONE - Eva Marie on 2nd April 1997 peacefully at her home Carwick, Lincoln, beloved wife of James Pinchback, loving daughter of Mr and Mrs Maths Hogberg. Funeral Service on Tuesday 8th April at 12.30pm at All Saints Church, Carwick, Lincoln, followed by interment. Yellow, blue and white flowers only please or donations for Macmillan Nurses Appeal or Marie Curie may be sent to Lincoln Co-op Funeral Service, 12 Portland Street, Lincoln, tel: (01522) 534971.

SMITH - Graham Stuart (Jim) peacefully at home on 3rd April. Dearly loved by his wife Betty, his children Sarah, Tom and Patrick and their families. Funeral at St Michael and All Angels, Cosby, Leicestershire on Friday April 11th at 3 pm. Family flowers only, donations if desired for MacMillan Cancer Relief (to whom cheques should be made payable) c/o Gimus & Gretteridge Funeral Directors of Leicester, tel: (0116) 2516117.

SPICER - Eulalie Evan OBE died 29th March 1997. Service at St Saviour's Church, Pimlico on Wednesday 9th April at 2.30pm. Flowers to Ballard & Barker Ltd, Victoria (0171) 834-3281.

SULLIVAN - Ronald Charles on April 3rd 1997 aged 53. Peacefully after a brave fight against illness. Deadly loved husband of Pamela and father of Caroline. Adored son of Doris, brother of Brian and Colin. Much loved by his family and many friends. Funeral Service at St Peter's Church, Grange Park, on Friday April 11th at 11.30 am. Family flowers only. Donations to "Marie Curie Research Fund" c/o Blake & Horlock, 27 Silver Street, Enfield.

SUMMERFIELD - Sir John Crampton CBE, QC. Died peacefully, April 4th 1997 in hospital in Ashford, Kent. Beloved husband and friend of Patricia, loving father of John, Michael, Rosemary and Margaret and proud grandfather of ten grandchildren. Requiem Mass and Funeral at 2 pm on Friday 11th April 1997 at Catholic Church, Mill Street, Hythe, Kent. Enquiries to Chittendens Funeral Services, Windmill Street, Hythe, tel: (01303) 262762.

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LILEY - Derek died April 7th 1996. Dearly loved husband of Barbara, devoted father and Grandpa. Missed so much.

MITCHELL - Lt.Col. Colin Campbell. A Memorial Service will be held at St. Columba's Church of Scotland, Pont St, London SW1 on Tuesday 20th May at 11.30am.

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OBITUARIES

ALLEN GINSBERG

Allen Ginsberg, poet, died on April 5 aged 70. He was born on June 3, 1926.

Whether as a prophetic bard or a pretentious beatnik, Allen Ginsberg has survived for four decades as an icon of American counterculture. He was one of the last survivors of the Beats, a cool cabal of mid-Fifties writers who, centring on *Jack Kerouac, sought* to rebel against staid, middle-class convention.

"Hold back the edges of your gowns, Ladies, we are going though hell," wrote William Carlos Williams in his introduction to Ginsberg's 1956 poem *Howl*. A court case ensued in which the publisher was, unsuccessfully, prosecuted for obscenity. *Howl* at once became one of the most widely circulated books of the time; a bible for a beatnik youth. Its opening lines remain one of the most notorious passages in postwar American poetry. "I saw the best minds of my generation destroyed by / madness, starving hysterical naked, / Dragging themselves through the negro *streets at dawn / looking for an active fix*".

It was never quite clear what exactly the Beats stood for. Jack Kerouac had coined the name, playing with its punning overtones of "beaten down" and "beatified". But broadly speaking, its key writers — Kerouac and Ginsberg, William Burroughs and Gregory Corso — *aimed to cast aside the proprieties* of English prosody and to play with the rhythms and improvisations of American jazz instead. Their work had a dramatic immediacy.

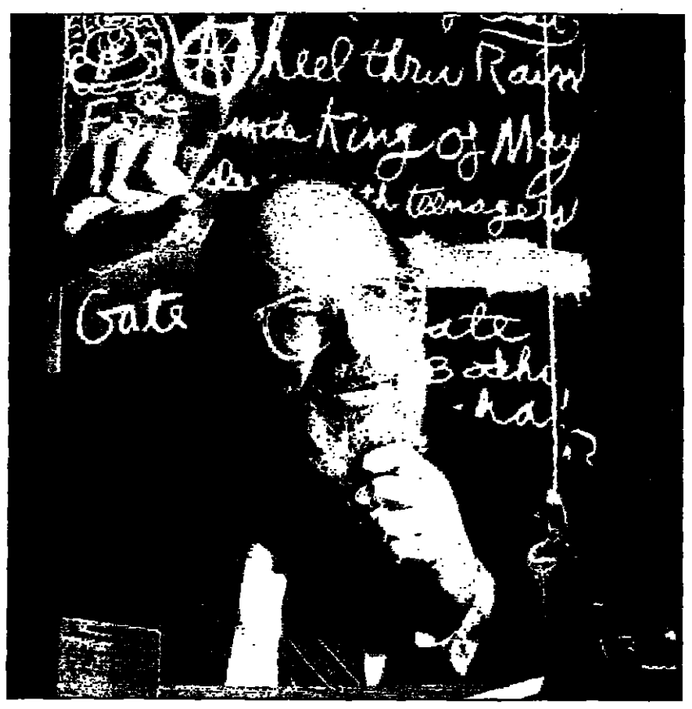
To his admirers Ginsberg was seen to have liberated American poetry, in the same way as John Osborne revitalised English theatre with *Look Back in Anger*. He recorded the ryhthms of voices around him and conveyed his most vivid feelings in the long tumbling lines which became his trademark style. His work has now *become mainstream. It is found on* university syllabuses all over the world.

Yet Ginsberg never won a major literary prize. And there is another school of thought which finds his work free-wheeling and shallow — the rantings of a drug-befuddled mind. Ginsberg did, indeed, *experiment with a bewildering* array of narcotics from mescalin to morphine, from dope to LSD. Bob Dylan, with whom he collaborated for some time, once described him as a "con man extraordinaire"; while John Giorno, the poet and former lover of Andy Warhol, described him as "the founding father of *bullshit liberals*".

But, whatever the criticisms, Ginsberg was, as one of his biographers put it, "the most practically effective drop-out around". He was the model non-conformist, the archetypal gay rights activist, the classic campaigner against censorship. And in later age he would hold forth on *any of these subjects in lengthily* repetitive monologues. He virtually invented "flower power" and the fashion for bald, bearded men in home-stitched sandals.

He became something of an institution, renowned for such declarations as "poetry is best read naked" and such outlandish feats, as the time he removed all his clothing at a party, *except for his* underpants which he balanced on his head. A "please do not disturb sign" was *suspended from his penis. At one point he* spent some time learning to dance like a kangaroo from an aboriginal instructor.

Yet if his exploits sometimes appeared ludicrous, Ginsberg proved an adroit *survivor. He outlived most of his enemies* including J. Edgar Hoover, who declared covert war on the Beats, and McCarthy and his witchhunters. And if he saw one generation grow out of his work, a new one arose to show themselves interested. In later years he collaborated with such bands as The Clash, Sonic Youth and, *most recently, Bono of U2.*



Allen Ginsberg was born in New Jersey, the son of Russian Jewish immigrants. His father, Louis, was a schoolteacher, and a poet of modest repute. He and his wife Naomi — in her youth an articulate and idealistic Marxist — were enthusiasts of naturism. But as a boy *Allen led a disturbed life. Few visitors* came to the house for, as his mother's periodic bouts of schizophrenia intensified, she routinely walked about naked crying out that her mother-in-law was trying to kill her with poison gas.

At the age of five Ginsberg watched from his cot as his mother set fire to the house and when he was nine he was standing outside the bathroom door while she, locked inside, slashed her wrists with a knife. His second major poem *Kaddish* (1960) was inspired by a memory of his mother cooking him supper while she told *him of her meeting with God*: "the Charity of her hands stinking with Manhattan, madness, desire to please me, cold undercooked fish — pale red near the bones. Her smells — and oft naked in the *room, so that I stare ahead, or turn a book* ignoring her." In 1947 — long after the divorce of their parents — Allen Ginsberg and his elder brother Gene were finally to sign consent for their mother to be lobotomised.

Ginsberg was educated in Paterson, New Jersey, and went on to Columbia University intending to become a lawyer. *Although he proved himself extremely* bright, he was suspended for writing obscene graffiti on the dirty windows of his dormitory. Eventually allowed to resume his studies, he graduated in 1948.

In the interim, however, Ginsberg had already started on his unofficial education. *He had worked several short stints* as a messman in the Merchant Navy and had his first homosexual encounter with a middle-aged sailor. He had fallen under the influence of William Burroughs who, *12 years his senior, had a flat nearby.* Burroughs had not yet written a book; it was to be Ginsberg who eventually persuaded him to do so. He had also been in trouble with the police after his flat was used as a base for a robbery. "Genius Columbia Student, Master of Crime Ring," read the headlines of the local paper.

To avoid prosecution as an accomplice, Ginsberg pleaded insanity and spent eight months in a mental hospital. But perhaps he was not altogether unsuited for the place. He had been using hallucinogens heavily — God had spoken to him while he was reading Blake, he said. He met Carl Solomon in the asylum, to whom he later dedicated *Howl*.

On his discharge Ginsberg found *desultory employment: on a magazine, in* a ribbon factory in New Jersey and as a *market research consultant in San Fran*cisco. But then in 1954 he met Peter Orlovsky who was to remain his lifelong companion. And in that year he finally decided to dedicate himself to "Blake, smoking pot, and doing whatever I *wanted to do*". He never looked back.

Drawn to San Francisco by what he called "its long tradition of Bohemia", he met and mixed with such San Francisco poets as Robert Duncan, Gary Snyder and Lawrence Ferlinghetti. It was the last who, in 1956, published the poem *Howl*. Ferlinghetti was charged with obscenity *and Ginsberg's reputation was made.*

He went on to publish some ten more volumes of poetry as well as copious journals. He also made a number of "spontaneous films". During the 1960s he *travelled extensively, including to India to* study Buddhism, to Cuba where he publicly attacked the Castro Government *for its repression of homosexuals, and to* England where he accompanied Bob Dylan on his *Don't Look Back* tour. In London he performed at the Royal Albert Hall, accompanying himself on the *harmonium. He and his friend*, Gregory Corso, took the opportunity to visit W. H. Auden in Oxford. Corso attempted to kiss the turn ups of Auden's trousers. *During another encounter with a famous* poet, the 82-year-old Ezra Pound, Ginsberg played him the Beatles *Yellow Submarine*. "He seemed to like it," he said. "He tapped his stick."

All over America, Ginsberg gave countless poetry readings and held "office hours" at universities. He was a presence *at everything from "be-ins" — mass* outdoor festivals of chanting costumes and music — to anti-war protests. He *spoke out at first, for the legalisation of* drugs, although gradually he came to regret his involvement in the drugs scene and toured universities instead preaching the superiority of yoga and meditation over narcotic abuse — although he still claimed that LSD had enabled him to pray for President Lyndon Johnson *instead of hating him.*

For the last 20 years of his life Ginsberg devoted much of his time to a Buddhist college, the Naropa Institute in Colorado, where he taught poetry. His principal guru Chögyam Trungpa, whose nirvanic state never quite overcame his earthly passions for women, cars and cannabis, *died in 1987. But Ginsberg continued to* defend him and his somewhat unconvincing habits — which included staffing his house with devotees rigged out as English butlers and teaching his students Oxonian English "so that they would be conscious of speech as a formulated aesthetic act like flower arranging".

Ginsberg *suffered from* diabetes and in later years from heart problems and hepatitis. In 1970 he contracted Bell's *Palsy*. The disease affected his eyes which were left, as *Time* magazine unkindly put it, "one wide and innocent, gazing at eternity; the other narrow and scrutinising, looking for its market *share*". Perhaps this was unfair. Ginsberg gave large proportions of his money to a charity he set up in aid of struggling poets. *He lived in a run down-flat on New York's* Lower East Side where he ate macrobiotically and meditated daily. He always resisted being lionised as poet. Yet today his work sells more copies than it *did even in the Sixties.*

He leaves no survivors.

SIR NORMAN ALEXANDER

Sir Norman Alexander, *Commonwealth* academic, died on March 26 aged 89. He was born in October 7, 1907



A NATURAL innovator, Norman Alexander combined his skill as a scientist with great practical ingenuity. He would set his mind to any task from designing a magnetic station in Ibadan, Nigeria, which became one of the most important geophysical observatories at low latitudes, to building the bus shelter at Redisham, in Suffolk where he retired.

As a prisoner of war of the Japanese his resourcefulness proved invaluable to his fellow inmates, but he will be most remembered for his services to universities all over the world. He was Professor of Physics for many years at Raffles College in Singapore and later at Ibadan University. He helped with the planning and development of universities in the West Indies, the South Pacific and southern Africa.

Norman Stanley Alexander was born in Mangapiko, Te Awamutu, New Zealand, one of eight children in a family of second generation immigrant farmers. As a boy he had to work hard on the farm which had been claimed from unworked but traditionally Maori lands. But at school he *showed himself an exceptional* scholar, too, and his family pooled scant resources to pay for him to go on to study at Auckland University.

Graduating with a first in *physics in 1927, he became a* junior lecturer at Auckland. In 1930 he won a Commonwealth Scholarship to study in Cambridge, where he began to work for his PhD at the Cavendish laboratory, under Lord Rutherford, his compatriot. *He learned from him the* valuable art of conducting research with home-made equipment on a shoe-string budget. Completing his PhD *in 1935 he went on to take up a* post a year later as Professor of Physics at Raffles College, Singapore.

When the Japanese invaded Singapore in 1942, Alexander's wife and family had already fled. He, however, *who had stayed working up* until the last minutes developing X-Rays in Singapore General Hospital, was captured and interned in Changi Jail and, later, *in the Sime Road* internment camp. His fellow prisoners valued him for his *sharp intellect and practical* ingenuity, for his humour and scrupulous fairness. He would *discuss how to maintain the* intellect under brutalising conditions and he and his companions — the majority of them professionals who had been exempted from National Service — would give lectures, each on his particular expertise. His physics lectures attracted a large following.

He built a salt evaporation plant from materials which he scrounged. He also soon got a *mini-industrial plant running* to provide the camp hospital with surgical spirit, produced by the fermentation or rice funghi.

After his release from the camp in 1945, he never liked to discuss his time there. He took *up work again at Raffles Col*lege as soon as his health permitted. Students found they could resume their studies exactly where they had left off.

In 1952 the college became the University of Malaya at Singapore. Alexander moved *to Nigeria to take up a post as* Professor of Physics at University College, Ibadan. Under his relaxed style of leadership, the physics department developed a broad range of geophysical research and his first PhD students went on to *become distinguished geo*physicists in the international academic community. Alexander also continued to exercise his considerable practical skills, whether in prising open *the jammed university safe in* the absence of a locksmith or *milking the campus cow.*

At the end of 1959 he briefly moved to Ankara, but soon returned to Nigeria again to become the first Vice-Chancellor of Ahmadu Bello University in northern Nigeria, a post he held until 1966. He *was knighted on his retire*ment.

For the next five years he became what he liked to call a "freelance vice-chancellor", involved in the setting up and planning of universities all over the world. In 1971 he was *appointed to the governing* body of the School of Oriental and African Studies.

Retiring to Redisham in Suffolk in 1972, he continued to indulge his passion for innovation whether repairing the church or making accurate *fibre-glass Roman helmets* for the children's nativity play. He later moved to Devonshire, where he enjoyed the upkeep of his house and garden and sometimes hammered visitors into the ground with his passion for logical argument. He could discuss anything from the finer points of Beethoven quartets through the rigging of Nelson's ships to new ways of exercising his wife's arm and leg after her stroke.

Norman Alexander married three times. His first wife Elizabeth Caldwell died in 1958. Soon after he married Constance Geary, a Professor *of Education at Ibadan Univ*ersity. She, too, predeceased him. He is survived by his third wife Evelyn Clark together with a son and two *daughters of his first* marriage.

LADY TEMPLER

Lady Templer, widow of *Field Marshal Sir Gerald* Templer, died on March 24 aged 92. She was born on July 23, 1904.

FOR *many* years Peggie Templer made a successful career as an officer's wife, resolutely in the background and supportive to a man who could at times be prickly. But she came into her own as "First Lady of Malaya" when *Sir Gerald Templer served* there as High Commissioner from 1952 to 1954.

Peggie Templer learnt to speak Malay, made broadcasts in that language, and was actively involved in every aspect of Malaya's welfare. As *Templer's biographer wrote*: "While Gerald hid a soft and sympathetic heart under a *hard and sometimes rough* exterior, Peggie had a strong will and a determination to achieve what she wanted which would sometimes show *through the very genuine sym*pathy and warmth which she constantly conveyed to all around her. They made a good team."

One of her lasting achievements was the Lady Templer Hospital on the outskirts of *Kuala Lumpur. This began as* a TB hospital, and is now a general one. She also set up an organisation similar to the Women's Institute, with the *help of the Labour MP Mar*garet Herbison, which inspired the Communists to *proclaim: "We must be on* guard against the wife of Templer and her so-called women's movement which aims at bluffing the womenfolk into joining the Women's Institutes. This woman bandit is cunning."

*Peggie Templer was a Devo*nian by birth twice over. Her father's family were merchants in Bideford in the 16th century and her grandfather was chairman of Devon County Council. Her mother, Beatrice Walrond, traced her ancestry to Devon in the 12th century. Ethel Marjorie (Peggie) Davie was the daugh*ter of a Hove lawyer, Charles* Davie, who eventually settled *in Plympton.*

She was a bright, good looking and sweet-natured girl, with a quizzical owl-like curiosity in her glance. Her father took fright when her headmistress suggested she should sit the Oxford exam and took her from school, consigning her education to the hands of a governess.

Her early years were restless, and she was happiest *when staying with her grand*parents. It was on such a visit, at a bazaar when she was 16, that she met the young Gerald Templer, then an officer in the Royal Irish Fusiliers on leave from Egypt. She thought him "a rather stuck-up young *man". But meeting him again* in 1924 she revised her view and after a ten-day courtship they became engaged.

The prospective union was not wholly popular with her parents as the young soldier was without money or pros*pects and due to return to* Egypt for two years. But their devotion proved strong and on September 8, 1926, they were married, the young officer a handsome figure in scarlet tunic and bearskin.

A peripatetic military life *followed with postings to Cai*ro, Camberley, Salisbury, York, Palestine and other military centres in Britain. When *Templer was raising a new* cadre in Wales, Peggie bought a thousand vests and bicycled all over Ross rounding up *helpers to sew different col*oured flashes on the shoulders. She also ran a social club and the men that relaxed there were subsequently embarrassed to discover that she was the colonel's wife.

From 1941 to 1945 she settled *with her daughter, Jane, at* Woodford, near Amesbury, and became a lieutenant-colonel in the St John Ambulance Brigade, arranging escorts transferring the wounded to hospitals. This activity ceased when it transpired that the "colonel" was pregnant with her son, Miles.

Military life was followed *by the Malayan interlude.*



Sir Gerald Templer and Lady Templer take their leave of Malaya, 1954

Thereafter she was a supportive wife and hostess to the CIGS, contributing greatly to his success and diffusing occasional moments when the Field Marshal lost his cool. This found further outlets as *his ceremonial role expanded* and he became Colonel of the Blues and Royals, Governor of the Tower of London and chairman of the National Army Museum. She was also a tireless worker for the Commonwealth Society for the *Deaf and for SSAFA.*

One evening in 1967, Sir Gerald was walking the dog and had thrown his wife's cape over his shoulders. Possibly mistaken for her, he was set upon by thugs, who were surprised by the force with *which the "Tiger of Malaya"* repelled them.

Sir Gerald died in 1979. In widowhood Lady Templer could be seen shopping alone in the King's Road, Chelsea. Latterly she retired to the country. She is survived by a son and daughter.

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AN UNABASHED VICTORIAN

I would say a word on behalf of the Victorians whom humorous young Georgians believe to have been given over to all that was ugly and banal. Now there is not, there never was, any Victorian type, as having a common character of its own, either in literature or in art, in habits or in manners. The 64 years of Victoria's reign form a period of continued growth, of new ideas, of intense vitality and change, of attempts to realize new forms of intellectual and social evolution. As a very old man who has lived through it all, and well into this wondrous 20th century, I can recall a variety of efforts during the 19th century to set up new modes of life. Each succeeding generation, almost each decade, had its own ideal or style; and no one of them was quite old-fashioned or vulgar. The view that the Victorian type was conventional and dull, and that the new Georgian type is so spiritual, strikes us veterans as a droll bit of conceit. Much of the modern jesting about Victorian prudery is concealed impatience of a moral reformation after an evil time. Complaints of Queen Victoria's conventional stiffness may be narrowed down to this — that she idolized her husband, who as a man really was virtuous, able, and earnest. It would have been better if she had given less attention to politics and more attention to society. But her conjugal devotion is not so unworthy a character for a woman.

From the first of the many Royal Commissions, of which Albert was by no means the mere figurehead, there grew up a succession of schools, movements, and thinkers who were trying new lines of grace, culture, and thought. Were Carlyle, Ruskin, Dickens, Thackeray, Arnold, Rossetti, Burne-Jones and Millais high priests of the conventional and the old-fashioned? And when Carlyle, Ruskin, and Morris were not the prophets they had been in their day, were Swinburne, Browning, and Hardy such slaves of the antiquated forms? If anyone was truly Victorian it was Tennyson; and if we do not now claim for him all that the Victorians offered at his shrine, no one calls him a formalist or a vulgarian. It is true that we do not now admire the Houses of Parliament, or the Albert Memorial, or the Crystal Palace as triumphs of Victorian art; but it is not easy to name any new Georgian buildings which are so plainly superior — not even the great Waterloo terminus. I remember the completion of the British Museum façade, and I doubt if the new County Council Hall will put it to shame . . .

ON THIS DAY

April 7, 1927

The author claimed to have lived in four reigns, including that of William IV, "and a very bad time it was".

NEWS

Martin Bell stands against Hamilton

■ The broadcaster Martin Bell is to stand as an anti-corruption candidate against Neil Hamilton, the Conservative MP at the centre of the cash-for-questions controversy. The decision, made in agreement with the local Labour and Liberal Democrat candidates, meant that the pressure on Mr Hamilton to stand down was at breaking-point ..... Page 1

Cook outflanks Tories on Europe

■ Robin Cook launched an audacious attempt to outflank the Government on the single currency by virtually ruling out membership for five years. The Shadow Foreign Secretary took the position that Tory Eurosceptics have been urging when he said that if Britain did not join in 1999 it was unlikely to do so in the course of the next Parliament ..... Page 1

Election 97: 7-11. Liberal Democratic manifesto: 40, 41

National defiance

The Grand National will become a symbol of defiance when it is run today amid the tightest security operation at a sporting event in Britain. Thirty-six runners are expected for the rescheduled race at 5pm which will be shown live by the BBC Pages 1, 3

Aristocratic snubs

Britain is turning its back on its loyal servants in Ireland after the Ambassador to Dublin ordered the removal of Anglo-Irish aristocrats from the guest list ....Page 2

High earners penalty

High earners are to be fined more heavily under new guidelines for magistrates. An income of £30,000 a year is classified as high, £13,000 as average and £5,000 as low .....Page 2

Bishop for all

Clergy of five denominations in Wales have put their historic differences behind them to ask for an "ecumenical bishop"... Page 4

Battlefield fight

Robert Hardy, the actor and authority on medieval warfare, asked the Government to stop a property developer building on a battlefield ..... Page 4

School trip casualty

A boy whose skull was fractured when a concrete block was thrown at his school coach in Belgium was recovering in intensive care .....Page 5

Pet counselling

Vets are being increasingly called upon to counsel grief-stricken owners when their pets die Page 5

Atlanta threat

A group claiming responsibility for two explosions in Atlanta has issued a declaration of war against the United States Government ..... Page 12

Hutu airlift

The United Nations began planning its biggest and most expensive humanitarian airlift to move more than 100,000 Hutus, including some mass killers, back to Rwanda ..... Page 13

Wilson's outburst

Harold Wilson furiously berated his Commonwealth colleagues in talks on the future of Rhodesia in the 1960s and told them to stop treating Britain like "a bloody colony" ..... Page 13

Thatcher's role

Baroness Thatcher is poised to play a central role in the dramatic reforms planned for Russia in the final years of the Yeltsin presidency, according to the most powerful new figure in Kremlin politics ..... Page 14

Spy is sued

A disillusioned former French spy who has written a book revealing the machinations of the French secret police is being sued by the Government for defamation ..... Page 14

Ski resort 'is going downhill'

■ The world's largest ski company is involved in a bitter dispute with the founders of Vail, in Colorado, who claim its new owners are turning the resort — a favourite of Diana, Princess of Wales — into a downmarket theme park. Oldtimers say Vail Resorts, the new management company, is creating the mountain equivalent of Disneyland .....Page 12

JEROME DELAY / AP



Rubbish covers the Champs Elysées after the 21st Paris Marathon yesterday. John Kemboi of Kenya won the race

BUSINESS

Privatisation: Advisers have been appointed to draw up plans to sell the Inland Revenue's offices and lease them back, potentially releasing £2.5 billion ..... Page 48

Yachting business: Chay Blyth is launching a plan to start a rolling international regatta that will tour the Far East and act as a platform for British exports ..... Page 48

Booming Britain: The British economy is now growing too fast for comfort, making higher interest rates a top priority for the next government ..... Page 48

Zantac: Glaxo, makers of the world's top selling drug, have lost another round in their legal campaign to stop Canada's Novopharm from making a generic version ..... Page 48

ARTS

Melvyn Bragg in Mexico: "To a North of England Anglican, all this weeping and idolatry ought to have been anathema. Instead it was impossible to resist being swept up in it" ..... Page 18

An artistic good start: The new exhibition at the Tate Gallery looks at the drawings and watercolours behind Turner's great works ..... Page 18

Girls on top: Eternal, Britain's other platinum-selling girl band, gave the fans just what they came for in their gig at the Wembley Arena ..... Page 19

Man of the moment: Anthony Minghella's 1989 radio play *Cigarettes and Chocolate* receives a well-timed stage revival in London ..... Page 19

FEATURES

Time bomb: Vulcanologists predict a major eruption — but they cannot say where. Anjana Ahuja reports ..... Page 15

Nigel Hawkes: The understanding of human genes is growing fast, but the clinical applications of the new knowledge are proving much more elusive ..... Page 15

New life, new love: Jeremy Lowndes has not touched spirits since the night his first wife was battered to death at the couple's villa on the Costa del Sol and he leapt from a balcony, breaking both ankles ..... Page 16

Valerie Grove: A year in which Martin Amis's father died, also saw the birth of a daughter. It left him both "strengthened and emboldened" ..... Page 17

SPORT

Cup final: A goal apiece during extra time took the Middlesbrough-Leicester City Coca-Cola final to a replay on April 16 .....Page 27

Tennis: Britain failed to gain promotion from the Davis Cup Euro-African zone group one when Zimbabwe took a 3-1 lead. Page 26

Football: Liverpool missed the chance of going top of the Premiership when they lost 1-2 at home to Coventry City. Dion Dublin scored the winner ..... Page 29

Rugby union: Wasps, the Courage Club Championship leaders, salvaged a vital point when a try in the final minutes brought them a 25-25 draw with Bath ..... Page 32

Sport for all: Those with a sense of adventure and a head for heights can have a whale of a time on the ocean wave ..... Page 38

Sailing: One of the oldest sailing records was broken when *Nicorette*, the 80ft Grand Mistral maxi skippered by Ludde Ingvall, set the fastest time for a monohull crossing of the Atlantic ..... Page 39

Snooker: Stephen Hendry, the world champion, said he had "simply run out of steam" when beaten by Mark Williams in the final of the British Open ..... Page 36



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ FILM FACT
Making a movie isn't the end of the story. Getting it shown is what really counts

■ COST CONSCIOUS
British companies are getting better at reducing costs. A 12-page report gives the latest tips

LOTTERY NUMBERS

1, 3, 28, 31, 41, 46. Bonus 33. Two tickets each won £4,963,025; 7 won £436,309 for 5 balls and the bonus; 520 won £3,670 for 5; 39,177 won £107 for 4 and 842,881 won £10 for 3.

TV LISTINGS

Preview: Snapping up bargains in *The Antiques Show* (BBC2, 8.30pm). **Review:** Matthew Bond sees a commode drama ..... Page 47

OPINION

Out of the race

Republicans are attempting to blackmail the Northern Ireland electorate and the next British Government into voting for them as the only route to peace .....Page 21

Policy and the world

Labour has now discovered areas where the Conservatives are vulnerable. Some are those where Labour has traditionally taken a high moral tone: overseas aid and human rights .....Page 21

Full cycle

The creed is simple: dumping rubbish in the ground is bad; burning it is worse; the only option is to recycle it. Economics makes nonsense of most of these .....Page 21

COLUMNS

PETER RIDDELL

There is an air of make-believe about the Europe debate. John Major and Robin Cook seemed to be competing over who could add the more "verys" to "unlikely" in describing the chances of Britain entering a single currency in the next Parliament ..... Page 20

PETER STOTHARD

It is a refrain that we have heard repeatedly over the past two weeks: why can the advisers not clear off and let the candidates be themselves. It is a hopeless refrain. It is hopeless because the art of democracy has been a science for as long as democracy has existed. Page 20

OBITUARIES

Allen Ginsberg, poet; **Lady Templar**, widow of the Field Marshall; **Sir Norman Alexander**, Commonwealth academic ..... Page 23

LETTERS

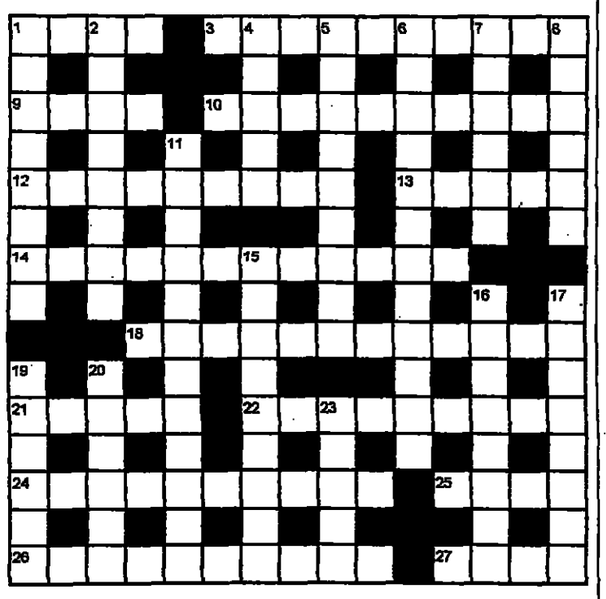
Lords reform; Labour and unions; guardsmen in custody; IRA tactics; modern morality .....Page 21

THE PAPERS

As long as resorting to clandestine procedures in order to keep a watch on citizens is not subject to strict and independent controls, anything is possible. Francois Mitterrand had the merit, unwittingly of course, of reminding us of that

— France-Soir

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,447



ACROSS

1 Excellent form of transport, and well ventilated (4).
3 Fall in dark beside climbing shrub (10).
9 A number backing the alliance (4).
10 Songsters from single church visiting countries out East (10).
12 Brandy and game tucked into by old Venetian traveller (5,4).
13 'ow an 'orseman travelled to eat away? (5).
14 Surrogate stable-lad's limited accommodation (8-4).
18 Inclined to act rashly, threatening disturbing reports (7-5).
21 Firm embracing revolutionary beliefs (5).
22 Stall a conductor may demand? (9).
24 About liberal reform, a Parisian is not to be trusted (10).
25 Sporty New Zealander, though not a flighty type (4).
26 Like a vile-sounding opera, of very little worth (10).
27 Very old artist retiring without a shilling (4).

DOWN

1 Weapon appears in a catalogue, causing needless panic (8).
2 In America, the permanent way to coerce (8).
4 Highly inebriated bishop leaves for game (5).
5 Meeting in the station area (9).
6 Single condition from composer and poet holding up function (12).
7 A justification of sanity (6).
8 Acquiescent types originally serving in Asian republic (3-3).
11 Dog bounds over pass with rest (6,6).
15 Get over treat (9).
16 Organised group is imprisoned after appearing on trial for revolt (8).
17 Is his display instrumental in attracting a mate? (4-4).
19 Discharge account almost entirely (6).
20 Old servant in India – one who endures (6).
23 Bishop, possibly, covering the Italian city (5).

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 20,446 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will each receive a £20 book token.

INFORMATION

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Jersey, 17C (63F); lowest day max: Lerwick, Shetland, 4C (39F); highest rainfall: Prestwick, Strathclyde, 0.31in; highest sunshine: Cromer, Norfolk, 10.6hr.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 41.2% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996

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AirUK

FORECAST

General: England and Wales will have variable cloud. The east and south, after any early mist or fog clears, should have some sunny spells. There may be rather more cloud in the west, with mist there slower to clear.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will be cloudy at first, with hill fog and drizzle. Western and northern parts will stay rather cloudy with occasional drizzle, but in the east sunny intervals will develop later.

London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands: early mist clearing, bright or sunny spells. Wind southerly, light. Mild. Max 15C (59F).

E England, W Midlands, Central N England, NE England, Borders: early mist clearing, bright or sunny spells. Wind southwesterly, light. Mild. Max 15C (59F), cooler on the coast.

Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man: cloudy and misty at first, becoming brighter later with coast and hill mist patches. Wind south to southwesterly, light to moderate. Mild. Max 14C (57F), cooler on the coast.

Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth: cloudy at first, sunny intervals later. Wind southwesterly, light to moderate. Mild. Max 14C (57F), but cooler on the coast.

SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll, NW Scotland, N Ireland: rather cloudy with hill and coastal drizzle. Wind southwesterly, moderate, locally fresh. Mild. Max 14C (57F).

NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: cloud and rain slowly clearing northwards. Wind southwesterly, moderate. Max 11C (52F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Wednesday: further rain spreading into northern parts; the south should stay dry.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	C	Max F		Sun hrs	Rain in	C	Max F	
Aberdeen	1.2	0.01	9	48	c	Leeds	0.4	0.01	11	52	c
Anglesey	0.9	0.01	14	57	d	Lerwick	8.5	0.02	4	39	s
Aspatria	-	0.01	10	50	d	Leuchars	X				
Aviemore	3.1	0.02	10	50	c	Llandrindod	5.5	-	12	54	s
Belfast	-	0.01	13	55	c	London	6.5	-	14	57	s
Birmingham	1.6	0.13	13	55	c	Lowestoft	9.7	0.01	9	48	s
Bognor R	6.2	-	12	54	s	Manchester	0.5	0.01	13	55	du
Bournem'th	5.3	-	14	57	b	Margate	9.5	0.02	11	52	s
Bristol	1.0	-	16	61	c	Minehead	X				
Buxton	0.2	0.04	9	48	c	Morecambe	0.5	0.02	11	52	d
Cardiff	3.1	0.01	15	59	b	Newcastle	0.3	0.07	10	50	c
Clacton	9.5	-	7	45	s	Newquay	2.1	-	16	61	c
Cleethorpes	X					Norwich	9.5	0.01	12	54	s
Colwyn Bay	2.6	0.02	12	54	c	Oxford	2.5	0.02	14	57	s
Cromer	10.5	-	9	48	s	Penzance	X	-	14	57	s
Dunbar	X					Poole	7.0	-	15	59	b
Eastbourne	7.2	-	11	52	s	Prestatyn	X	0.01	15	59	b
Edinburgh	4.9	0.18	11	52	b	Ross-o-wye	0.7	-	15	59	c
Eskdalemuir	X	0.03	10	50	d	Ryde	4.3	-	11	52	b
Exmouth	7.2	-	16	59	s	Sandown	5.1	0.01	11	52	b
Falmouth	3.4	-	14	57	b	Seaford Snd	1.8	-	15	59	b
Fishguard	2.4	0.01	13	55	fg	Scarboro'	1.1	0.02	9	48	c
Folkestone	9.5	-	12	54	s	Shanklin	X				
Glasgow	1.5	0.01	11	52	d	Skegness	6.5	-	9	48	s
Guernsey	7.8	-	15	59	s	Southport	-	0.01	13	55	c
Hastings	6.5	-	11	52	s	Southsea	2.8	-	11	52	c
Hayling I.	6.4	0.01	11	52	s	Stornoway	3.1	0.05	9	48	r
Herne Bay	9.3	-	15	59	s	Swanage	5.3	-	14	57	s
Hove	5.6	-	X	X	b	Teignmouth	7.8	-	16	61	b
Hunstanton	X	-	10	50	s	Tenby	7.6	-	15	59	s
Ilfracombe	X					Torquay	6.5	-	17	63	s
Isle of Man	-	0.02	11	52	d	Tynemouth	-	0.03	7	45	c
Jersey	8.1	-	17	63	s	Ventnor	5.9	-	12	54	s
Kinloss	X					Weymouth	7.2	-	15	59	s

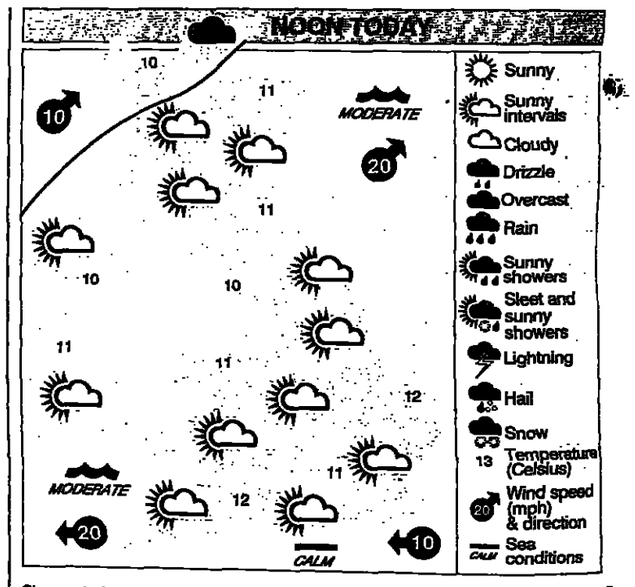
ABROAD

Ajaccio	17	63	s	Corfu	14	57	f	Majorca	21	70	s
Alicante	14	57	f	C'phagn	5	41	s	Malaga	20	68	s
Alex'dria	18	61	c	Dublin	13	55	c	Malta	17	63	p
Algiers	22	72	s	Dubrovnik	11	52	f	Melb'rne	19	66	f
Amst'dm	9	48	f	Faro	19	66	f	Mexico C	20	68	f
Athens	13	55	f	Florence	17	63	c	Miami	28	79	s
B Aires	23	73	s	Frankfurt	7	46	f	Milan	24	75	s
Bahrain	30	86	s	Funchal	21	70	s	Montreal	11	52	s
Bangkok	34	93	s	Geneva	14	57	f	Moscow	1	34	c
Barbados	30	86	s	Gibraltar	20	68	f	Munich	5	41	c
Barcelona	20	68	s	Helsinki	0	32	sn	N Delhi	25	77	s
Beirut	19	66	f	Hong K	21	70	f	N York	15	59	s
Belgrade	11	52	c	Innsbruck	5	41	r	Nairobi	28	79	f
Berlin	4	39	sn	Istanbul	10	50	f	Naples	17	63	f
Bermuda	19	66	c	Jeddah	28	82	s	Nice	17	63	s
Biarritz	20	68	s	Jo'burg	21	70	f	Oslo	5	43	s
Bordx	17	63	s	L Angels	17	63	s	Paris	14	57	f
Brussels	9	48	s	L Palmas	22	72	f	Peking	20	68	s
Budapst	8	46	f	Le Touet	11	52	f	Perth	25	77	f
Cairo	22	72	c	Lisbon	17	63	f	Prague	4	39	f
Cape Tn	X			Locarno	21	70	s	Reykjavik	3	37	c
Ch'church	16	61	s	Luxembg	7	45	f	Rhodes	12	54	s
Chicago	15	61	f	Luxor	28	82	s	Rio de J	24	75	f
Cologne	9	48	s	Madrid	21	70	s	Riyadh	32	90	f

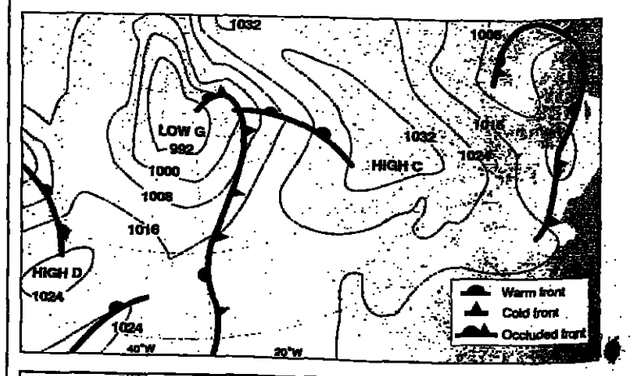
Rome	15	59	f	Stockholm	1	34	s	Vienna	5	41	f
S Fr'isco	13	55	s	Strasb'rg	11	52	f	Warsaw	0	32	sn
S Paulo	20	68	c	Sydney	26	79	s	Zurich	9	48	c
Salzburg	5	41	c	Tangier	23	73	s				
Santiago	29	84	s	Tel Aviv	22	72	s				
Seoul	10	50	f	Tenerife	22	72	f				
Sing'por	32	90	f	Tokyo	14	57	f				
Sri'kholm	1	34	s	Toronto	11	52	f				
Strasb'rg	11	52	f	Tunis	18	64	f				
Sydney	26	79	s	Valencia	22	72	s				
Tangier	23	73	s	Vanc'ver	10	50	s				
Tel Aviv	22	72	s	Venice	16	61	s				
Tenerife	22	72	f	Vienna	5	41	f				
Tokyo	14	57	f	Warsaw	0	32	sn				
Toronto	11	52	f	Zurich	9	48	c				

Temperatures at midday local time. X = not available

NOON TODAY



Changes to the chart below from noon: high C will gradually slide southeast; high D will build as it moves east, centring over Ireland on Wednesday; low G will head north as it deepens



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	02.21	7.3	14.51	7.6	Leith	03.06	5.8	15.21	5.9
Aberdeen	01.55	4.4	14.03	4.5	Liverpool	11.59	10.0	-	-
Avonmouth	07.59	14.0	20.21	14.0	Lowestoft	10.17	2.5	22.16	2.7
Belfast	11.48	3.6	-	-	Margate	00.15	4.7	13.01	4.8
Cardiff	07.45	12.9	20.07	12.9	Milford Haven	06.55	7.4	19.18	7.4
Devonport	06.27	5.7	18.54	5.6	Newquay	05.47	7.4	18.09	7.3
Dover	11.45	6.8	-	-	Oban	06.34	4.2	18.54	4.0
Dublin (N Wall)	00.06	4.2	12.17	4.5	Penzance	05.16	5.8	17.40	5.7
Falmouth	05.58	5.5	18.25	5.4	Portland	07.29	2.1	20.03	2.1
Greenock	00.59	3.3	13.24	3.8	Portsmouth	11.56	4.8	-	-
Harwich	00.13	4.0	12.43	4.2	Shoreham	11.54	6.5	-	-
Holyhead	10.57	8.0	23.25	8.8	Southampton	11.28	4.7	23.54	4.8
Hull (Albert D)	07.01	8.9	19.07	9.2	Swansea	07.03	10.3	19.27	10.2
Ilfracombe	08.42	9.8	19.04	9.8	Tees	04.20	5.6	16.31	5.7
King's Lynn	07.14	7.0	19.15	7.4	Walton-on-N	00.03	4.2	12.33	4.4

All times GMT Heights in metres.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 6.23 am
Sun sets: 7.44 pm
Moon sets 7.58 pm
Moon rises 6.33 am

London 7.44 pm to 6.20 am
Bristol 7.54 pm to 6.30 am
Edinburgh 8.03 pm to 6.25 am
Manchester 7.55 pm to 6.26 am
Penzance 8.04 pm to 6.44 am

First quarter April 14

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TODAY IN THE TIMES — GREAT SEASON OF SPORT



CUP DRAW
Late equaliser gives Leicester final replay
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LOVE LOST
British hearts break in Davis Cup
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FINAL STING
Last-minute try lets Wasps scramble a point
PAGE 32

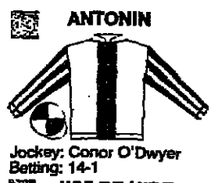


WHEEL OF FORTUNE
Sailing back to adventure on board Endeavour
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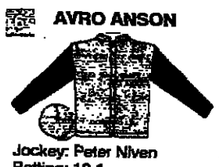
TIMES SPORT

MONDAY APRIL 7 1997

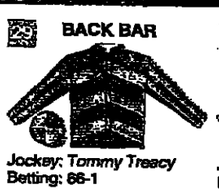
RUNNERS AND RIDERS RAISE COLOURS FOR DELAYED RACE



ANTONIN
Jockey: Conor O'Dwyer
Betting: 14-1



AVRO ANSON
Jockey: Peter Niven
Betting: 10-1



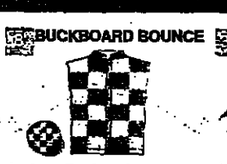
BACK BAR
Jockey: Tommy Treacy
Betting: 66-1



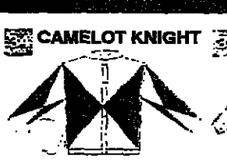
BELMONT KING
Jockey: Richard Johnson
Betting: 20-1



BISHOPS HALL
Jockey: M Richards
Betting: 50-1



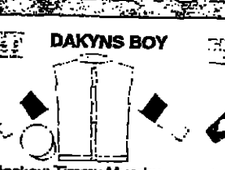
BUCKBOARD BOUNCE
Jockey: Paul Carberry
Betting: 25-1



CAMELOT KNIGHT
Jockey: Carl Llewellyn
Betting: 100-1



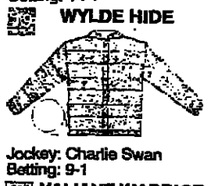
CELTIC ABBEY
Jockey: Brendan Powell
Betting: 66-1



DAKYNS BOY
Jockey: Timmy Murphy
Betting: 66-1



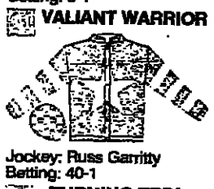
DEXTRA DOVE
Jockey: Chris Maude
Betting: 33-1



WYLDE HIDE
Jockey: Charlie Swan
Betting: 9-1



DON'T LIGHT UP
Jockey: Robert Thornton
Betting: 100-1



VALIANT WARRIOR
Jockey: Russ Garritty
Betting: 40-1



EVANGELICA
Jockey: Robbie Supple
Betting: 66-1



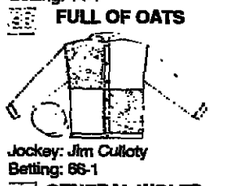
TURNING TRIX
Jockey: John Kavanagh
Betting: 40-1



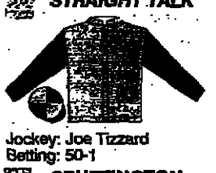
FEATHERED GALE
Jockey: Francis Woods
Betting: 14-1



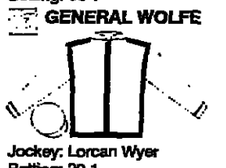
SUNY BAY
Jockey: Jamie Osborne
Betting: 8-1



FULL OF OATS
Jockey: Jim Culloty
Betting: 66-1



STRAIGHT TALK
Jockey: Joe Tizzard
Betting: 50-1



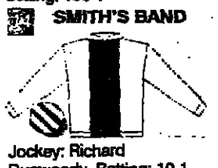
GENERAL WOLFE
Jockey: Lorcan Wyer
Betting: 20-1



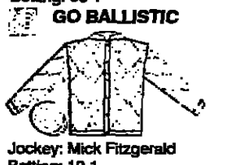
SPUFFINGTON
Jockey: Philip Hide
Betting: 100-1



GLEMOT
Jockey: Simon McNeill
Betting: 66-1



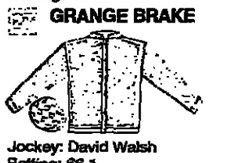
SMITH'S BAND
Jockey: Richard Dunwoody. Betting: 10-1



GO BALLISTIC
Jockey: Mick Fitzgerald
Betting: 12-1



SCRIBBLER
Jockey: Dan Fortt
Betting: 100-1



GRANGE BRAKE
Jockey: David Walsh
Betting: 66-1



RIVER MANDATE
Jockey: Andrew Thornton
Betting: 50-1



KILLESHIN
Jockey: Sean Curran
Betting: 33-1



PLASTIC SPACEAGE
Jockey: Guy Upton
Betting: 100-1



LORD GYLLENE
Jockey: Tony Dobbin
Betting: 10-1



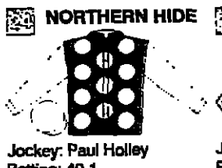
PINK GIN
Jockey: Chris Bonner
Betting: 100-1



OVER THE STREAM
Jockey: Adie Smith
Betting: 100-1



NUAFFE
Jockey: Terry Mitchell
Betting: 66-1



NORTHERN HIDE
Jockey: Paul Holley
Betting: 40-1



NEW CO
Jockey: David Casey
Betting: 40-1



NAHTHEN LAD
Jockey: Jason Titley
Betting: 16-1

MUGONI BEACH
Jockey: Jamie Evans
Betting: 66-1

MASTER OATS
Jockey: Norman Williamson. Betting: 33-1

MASTER BOSTON
Jockey:
Betting: 100-1

LO STREGONE
Jockey: Graham Bradley
Betting: 14-1

National pride at stake as Aintree reopens gates

BY RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

THE form book does not offer guidance on how bomb threats and the actions of terrorists affect the performance of a horse in a race, let alone the world's most famous steeplechase. But, as the expected 36 runners line up for the delayed Martell Grand National at teatime today, selecting or backing a winner has never seemed more irrelevant.

After the calculated attempt on Saturday to disfigure a treasured part of the nation's sporting heritage, only one result is of any significance: the race must be run. Racing, not the terrorists, must be the winner.

Until now, sport, and the Turf in particular, has been protected from the horrors that have been inflicted on so many either side of the Irish Sea. There has been an unwritten belief that the unbreakable bond between the Irish and their horses has protected the noble creatures and those associated with them from terrorism. "Operation Aintree All Areas", barked out with scary urgency over the loudspeakers at 3:12pm, shattered that illusion once and for all.

As the 150th running of the Grand National finally gets under way, what should one expect? With no car-parking allowed at Aintree, the stands may be eerily empty when the starting tapes rise shortly after 5pm. And what of the course over which the field must race? An abiding memory of Saturday afternoon was the army of spectators who claimed their personal memento of the big day by removing pieces of birch from the fences and proceeded to carry them around in triumph.

For a few moments, it appeared as though *Macbeth* was being enacted, with a forest moving steadily towards Anchor Bridge, which straddles the Leeds-Liverpool canal and was the escape route for many on Saturday.

Of equal concern is the state of the ground — and not just its relative firmness or softness. All kinds of debris was deposited on the track by the departing army, including bottles deliberately broken by those claiming to be animal lovers and calling themselves animal rights protesters. Somehow, every last sliver of glass, every bottle and can, must by cleared up.

Then there is the going itself. An exceptionally lush covering of grass, which offered some protection to horses who like softer conditions underfoot, has been trampled close to non-existence in places by tens of thousands of feet. A persistent drying wind will have eliminated any remaining ease and the ground, by Irish standards, will be fast.

Most important of all, how will the horses react to the upheaval of the past 48 hours? Routine is as important for them as for children. After being brought to peak fitness, their lives have been thrown into turmoil. Some were ferried to stables at Haydock, others were driven home; a few remained at Aintree.

If any have missed out on their normal diet or exercise pattern the effect on performance could be dramatic. "If the routine is broken, horses are likely to suffer," Nick Wingfield Digby, a leading Newmarket vet, said. "Depending on their temperament, some horses will get more buoyed up than others. But they will all respond differently."

All of which suggests the best bet is no bet but, if ever there was a time when backers must strike a wager, out of loyalty and support to the Grand National itself, it is today.

On Saturday, I recommended Antonin with confidence. Ideally, he would like easier ground and the delay has not helped his cause. However, I refuse to alter my recommendation. To do so would be to submit, in some small way, to the men who sabotaged the original race.

Each and every one of the 60,000 people who attended the Grand National on Saturday has a tale to tell; here is mine. After obtaining one of the last rooms in a hotel about 20 minutes' drive from Aintree on Saturday evening, four of us sat down for a late-night snack in a restaurant named after Winston Churchill and whose walls are adorned with Second World War pictures, posters and memorabilia.

Looking down upon us was a portrait of the great man along with an extract from one of his most famous speeches. "We shall go on to the end. We shall defend our island, whatever the cost may be. Britain will fight the menace of tyranny for years, and, if necessary, alone." More than half a century later, the bulldog spirit lives on. Especially at 5pm today.

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Dextra Dove, a Grand National runner, is exercised at Haydock yesterday. Photograph: Peter Nicholls

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McGrath shines when the going gets tough



MATTHEW BOND

TV ACTION REPLAY

Crowd trouble, pitch invasions, animal rights demonstrations ... BBC Sport has a long and frustrating record of grandly ignoring them all, of blithely pretending that the news story under their nose is not there. But the evacuation of 70,000 people attending one of the biggest sporting events of the year, not even the BBC could ignore that.

Events started to depart from the planned programme soon after the cameras arrived in the paddock. We at home had just endured the most extraordinary musical massacre of the runners and riders (a tune that might have been written by Eric Coates, complete with whip-cracks and the occasional whinny) and were just getting over the shock of discovering that neither Richard Pitman nor Peter Scudamore knew what the word "dour" meant. That brief exchange was to be the last of the afternoon's fun.

For as the cameras followed Lord Gyllene around the ring, Pitman first observed how good it was to see the crowd packed 20 deep around the paddock, then paused and added something to the effect that such a big crowd meant they probably could not see what was going on elsewhere. As 12 million once-a-year punters thought "What?" he explained: "I do believe that there are other things happening. In fact, they're evacuating the County Stand."

Two people emerged with credit from the confusion that followed. The first was "Aussie" Jim McGrath, whose simple, calm and straightforward description of events could provide a model for any sports commentator who finds him or herself in a similar situation. Don't jump to conclusions, don't set yourself up as judge and jury and if you don't know what's going on — shut up. McGrath stuck to what he saw, knew or felt and did an excellent job.

But doing every bit as good a job was Malcolm Kemp, who was directing his first National for the BBC. We never got to see the extra cameras or the new angles that he had promised us for the race itself, but we did see how well he adapted to the unexpected turn of events. Cameras were quickly turned through 180 degrees to show what was going on and when even the positions themselves had to be evacuated, the cameras were left locked off but running. The deserted paddock was one of the enduring images of the day.

Kemp, however, also showed a newsman's desire to show it as it is rather than as cliché dictates it should be. While convention called for the evacuation to be "orderly and well-mannered", the cameras picked out an over-excited party of race-goers happily destroying one of the fences. Such honesty was as refreshing as it was unexpected. I hope he is still around when the streaking season starts.

Des Lynam, however, was having a less happy time. Long before he was asked to leave the course live on air, it had been clear that this was not one of his better days. Nothing quite worked for him ... even to the extent of having to play his own straight man with Mick Fitzgerald, the winning jockey last year. "How did you describe winning, Mick?" Mick knew, but apparently wasn't saying. Better than sex, wasn't it? "Well, I hope you've been proven wrong in the interim." I suppose it was worth the wait.

That seemed to set the pattern for the afternoon. Jenny Pitman got the better of him by chiding him to hurry up and get married. "Thanks for bringing that close to the public, Jenny," Lynam replied, just a little too grumpily for it to be funny. An hour later, when his old, and now tearful, friend needed cheering up, he was no help at all.

Eventually, total evacuation forced him to hand back to a startled-looking Gary Lineker, who suddenly found himself in charge of a crisis. Given his lack of experience, Lineker didn't make a bad job of linking a lot of rough and far-from-ready match reports, but we were still left with the distinct impression that *Grandstand's* contingency planning could do with a bit of updating. Pelé's favourite footballers — how long had that been around?

TENNIS: COMFORTABLE VICTORY FOR ZIMBABWE ENDS HOPES OF IMMINENT DAVIS CUP PROMOTION

Black puts British revival into perspective

By Alix Ramsay



Delgado plays a backhand during his straight-sets defeat by Byron Black at Crystal Palace yesterday

SO, IT is to the Ukraine in July — the next stage in the eagerly awaited rejuvenation of men's tennis in Great Britain. After Jamie Delgado was battered into submission 6-0, 6-0, 6-2 by Byron Black, Zimbabwe took an unassailable 3-1 lead over Britain to win the second-round tie in the Davis Cup Euro-African zone group one at Crystal Palace.

All Britain's thoughts of progress and promotion have been put to one side and David Lloyd must now take his squad to Kiev in the hope of staying put.

After the heroics of Andrew Richardson on Friday, who blasted his way past the elder Black brother, the omens had not looked good on Saturday, when Wayne and Byron Black defeated Mark Petchey and Neil Broad in the doubles. Leaving Britain 2-1 down, it left far too much for the young Delgado to do yesterday.

Facing the world No 46, and a man who has collected nearly $3 million in prize-money in his six years on the ATP Tour, Delgado was stymied. He had no idea what to do next as his first service deserted him and every shot he tried headed for the backstop or the tram lines. Although he claimed he had not been nervous before the start, the nerves started jangling as soon as he got to work.

As the games whistled by, and Delgado was still not on the score sheet, he looked like a man who desperately wanted to be somewhere else. When finally he hit a backhand winner at the end of the second set, he raised his arms to acknowledge the applause of the enthusiastic, if symapthetic, crowd. When he won his first game, he had the crowd whipped to a frenzy with sheer relief.

David Lloyd, the Britain captain, was resigned to his team's fate and understanding of Delgado's situation. He remembered his own days as a Davis Cup player, when the nerves took over. "It's the only time I've ever frozen and I still don't know why," he said. "Jamie has got to work out what happened today and learn how to stop it happening again."

What Lloyd has learnt is that, even with the best pair of players Britain has had to its name in many a long year, luck still plays its part in the Davis Cup. "We will go forward," he said, "but things were against us from the start.

"To lose both top players is a blow, a hell of a blow. I thought, when Tim and Greg were fit, that this was a great draw for us. But, for Jamie and Andrew, it was a great opportunity to play Davis Cup at a young age and I think Andrew played well beyond anybody's expectations."

Unfortunately, what the weekend's matches did prove was that, without Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski, British tennis is still struggling. Take away the top names and Lloyd has to fall back on players whose immediate ambitions lie in breaking into the top 200 in the world.

Yesterday Andrew Richardson put up another valiant struggle but lost the final and dead rubber 6-3, 6-7, 7-6 to Wayne Black.

Compared with Zimbabwe, who pick their team from one family, Britain would appear to have an abundance of riches. Zimbabwe have just a handful of serious competitive players, of whom three are on the world ranking list. They have little money but a great deal of enthusiasm and, as they go forward to Thursday's draw for the world group qualifying round, everyone is hoping for a big name and a home tie to spread the word about Zimbabwe tennis.

Black admitted that the national team lacked depth. "This has to be one our best wins," he said. "I have been thinking about this tie for months and I was expecting to play Henman and Rusedski, which would have made it a lot tougher." As for Britain, it is back to the drawing board for the moment. The trip to the Ukraine comes immediately after Wimbledon, and four weeks of grass-court biff and bash. Put up against Andrei Medvedev and his teammates, they face the prospect of a slow clay court — not the favoured surface of any British man. Failure there means another tie against either Hungary or Belgium to avoid relegation.

BOWLS

Eight and out for hot shots

NO ONE expects the extravagance of a maximum count of eight shots in pairs of fours to happen in the national finals. Defence should be tighter when there are international players on the rink, and a count of eight — where one side finishes with all of their eight bowls closer to the jack than the opposition's — is rarely seen.

Yesterday, however, at Melton Mowbray, Reading Whiteknights grabbed a remarkable lifeline when they hit the jackpot against Kingsthorpe, skipped by Mick Sharpe.

Whiteknights, the 1995 champions, were trailing, 7-19, after 14 ends of their quarter-final, when Sharpe, attempting to remove shots, removed his own team's best efforts, and gave Garry Stacey, the Whiteknights skip, the chance to add the eighth shot with his last bowl.

Only four shots separated the sides at 19-15 but a similar story, this time involving a reversal of roles, on the 16th end, saw Stacey take out Whiteknights' nearest bowl to concede six.

Kingsthorpe, who went on to win 30-16, now meet Stanley in the semi-final, while Cyphers, the holders, take on Cumbria.

CRICKET: KENYA CAPTAIN ODUMBE THE STUMBLING BLOCK IN RAIN-INTERRUPTED ICC TROPHY SEMI-FINAL

Tough task for Ireland in World Cup quest

From a Special Correspondent in Kuala Lumpur

IRELAND'S cricketers went to bed in Kuala Lumpur last night knowing they must score 216 from 50 overs to beat Kenya and take a place in the 1999 World Cup finals.

The first ICC Trophy semi-final was delayed by overnight rain and a sodden outfield, but dedicated mopping-up and a sensible flexibility towards the playing conditions allowed Kenya to complete an innings of 215 for eight. Maurice Odumbe, the Kenya captain, lifted his side to what should prove a formidable total with a strident 67 off 71 balls, his second half-century against Ireland in the tournament.

Ireland won the toss and, with the outfield still wet enough to help stem the boundaries, had little hesitation in putting Kenya in. Mark Patterson, who will play for Surrey this summer, was again wayward and expensive, although he did tempt Sandeep Gupta to pull to backward square leg to end an opening stand of 35.

A brief stoppage for rain after 16 overs gave Mike Hendrick, the Ireland coach, a chance to regroup and a switch to an all-spin attack quickly checked Kenya on the resumption. Veteran Garfield Harrison bowled three maiden overs, but Neil Doak made a more important contribution by bowling Asif Karem and Steve Tikolo within three deliveries, the latter playing on via thigh pad and elbow.

Odumbe then joined Kenny Otieno and, having scored 99 not out when the teams met in the opening round, he was the major contributor in a fifth-wicket partnership of 75. Otieno was caught by Harrison running around the mid-wicket boundary for 51, one of four excellent catches by Ireland, and Thomas Odoyo departed two balls later when Andy Patterson dived forward to take a leading edge at backward point.

To cap a fine fielding display by Ireland, Andy, the younger of the Patterson brothers, then plucked out middle stump with a throw from long-off with Odumbe a few inches short of his ground. By that stage it was probably too late for Ireland, who had seen the Kenya captain start a late assault.

Ireland walked off knowing they could not have performed much better, but they will probably have to settle for the third-place play-off against Scotland or Bangladesh on Thursday.

SCORE: Kalab Kilat: Kenya 215-8 (50 overs) (M Odumbe 67, K Otieno 51; P McCrum 4-51) v Ireland

HOCKEY: READING LIFT MEN'S TITLE BUT SLOUGH'S LEAGUE AND CUP DOUBLE DREAM IS DASHED

Pearn puts paid to Cannock

READING'S ambition to win the premier division title in the National League was fulfilled after a 4-1 home win against Cannock yesterday, although success was not as easy as the scoreline suggests. (Sydney Friskin writes). Cannock had as much of the play in the first half, but failed to capitalise on three short corners.

The temporary suspension of Kalbir Takher was a setback for Cannock and Reading forged ahead in the 23rd minute. A free hit by Hoskin was helped along by Briscoe and Grant Edwards was on hand to score.

Jon Wyatt converted a penalty stroke five minutes before half-time and Pearn consolidated Reading's position with another goal shortly after the resumption of play. Paul Edwards then converted a short corner in the 42nd minute to enable Cannock to climb back into the game but, although Wyatt, the Reading captain, was temporarily suspended, Cannock could not add to their score. Eventually, Sanders set up Pearn to score Reading's fourth goal in the last minute.

With Reading home and dry, an 8-3 victory against Canterbury, at Chiswick, was of little consequence to Teddington, who finished runners-up. A 2-2 draw with Hounslow was not enough to save Surbiton from relegation and they will accompany Havant to the first division. Edgbaston and City of Portsmouth will fight for the right to stay in the first division in the inter-league play-offs later this month.

Ipswich reap sweet revenge

A GOAL in each half by Sarah Bamfield, the Ipswich striker, destroyed Slough's hopes of a league and cup double when the Suffolk side avenged the 2-1 league defeat on Saturday with a convincing 4-2 victory in the sixth round of the AEWHA Cup yesterday (a Special Correspondent writes). Slough, who overtook Ipswich at the head of the Premiership after Karen Brown struck twice in the second half to steer them home, must now win their final game against Hightown to make sure of capturing their fifth title.

Their confident and dominant second-half display at Ipswich gave Slough every reason to expect another victory yesterday, but they came up against a team determined to have something to show for their efforts at the end of the season.

Leisa King gave Ipswich an early lead, and although Mandy Nicholls and Brown replied to put Slough 2-1 up, Kirsten Spencer levelled from a sixteenth-minute penalty corner, and Bamfield then struck twice to put the holders into the semi-finals.

Two goals by Claire Ferguson steered Doncaster to a 4-1 victory over Sutton Coldfield, and Clifton and Hightown also booked their places in the last four with wins over teams from lower divisions. But, despite their good cup runs, Doncaster and Hightown still face the threat of relegation, along with Leicester and Trojans, as the league campaign enters the final run-in.

SPORT

Zimbabwe run out of opportunities

ZIMBABWE threw away a golden chance of beating Pakistan when four of their batsmen fell to needless run-outs in their Sharjah Cup match yesterday. In the end, Pakistan were easy victors by 93 runs after Zimbabwe were all out for 94. Disciplined bowling by Zimbabwe had seen Pakistan dismissed for 187 in their allotment of 50 overs.

Zimbabwe reached 39 without loss but their openers, Craig Wishart (29) and Grant Flower (14), were both run out and only Andy Flower, with an unbeaten 21, reached double figures.

☐ A sodden outfield again delayed the start of the fourth Test between West Indies and India in Antigua, on the third day yesterday. Heavy rain had caused the opening two days of the match to be abandoned.

Tanner justifies call-up

CYCLING: John Tanner, Britain's top rider in the recent Tour of Langkawi and named for the Dutch Olympia Tour next month, confirmed the selectors' faith in him by winning the 106-mile *Cycling Weekly* international grand prix yesterday on a Beaconsfield-based circuit. The Sheffield Controlware rider was never far from the head of affairs in a race that developed into a wearing-down process on the hilly course. With some 70 miles covered, the main pack of 100 split, and then Tanner eventually broke clear with Matthew Stephens before producing a late burst, to which Stephens was unable to respond.

Kemboi reigns in Paris



ATHLETICS: John Kemboi, right, of Kenya, moved away from Lucketz Swartbooi, of Namibia, in the final four miles to win the Paris Marathon yesterday. Kemboi's time of 2hr 10min 14sec was the third best in the 21-year history of the race. Swartbooi, second in the marathon at the 1993 world championships, was runner-up, about a minute and 13 seconds behind.

Launceston take title

TABLE TENNIS: Launceston landed the British League premier division title on their home tables last night when they held the Sussex club, Horsham, to a thrilling 7-7 draw, despite losing Paul Giles, their No 1, with kidney problems. Chris Sladden, from Southend, who is studying mathematics at Essex University, played precision table tennis to defeat the top three Sussex men and remain unbeaten.

Victory in trials

ROWING: Steve Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent confirmed their status as Great Britain's top pair during trials in Nottingham over the weekend. They were followed home by James Cracknell and Rob Thatcher, the British double scull in Atlanta. Third place was filled by Tim Foster, the Oxford stroke in the Boat Race a week earlier, and Rupert Obholzer.

Reeder makes news

GYMNASTICS: Great Britain's women gymnasts achieved success against Russia when Anneka Reeder, of Basildon, and Melissa Wilcox, from Bristol, won the gold and silver medals in the floor exercises final in an international match in Glasgow on Saturday. Wilcox also took silver in the beam finals and was placed sixth in the individual overall competition. The Russians won the team event.

Sorensen surges home



CYCLING: Rolf Sorensen, right, of Denmark, won the Tour of Flanders World Cup race in Meerbeke, Belgium, yesterday, ahead of Frederic Moncassin, of France, and Franco Ballerini, of Italy. Sorensen, 31, covered the 256 kilometres in 6 hours and 41 seconds. World champion Johan Museeuw, of Belgium, saw his hopes of victory ended by mechanical problems.

Funnell edges out Tait

EQUESTRIANISM: Pippa Funnell won a close battle with Blyth Tait, the Olympic champion, in the Dines Hall Horse Trials at Halstead. Funnell, on Rainbow Magic, finished with 43 points for a one-point win over Tait, the New Zealander, riding Chesterfield in one of the Pedigree Chum series warm-ups for the Badminton three-day event next month.

Mellor's wait rewarded

LACROSSE: After losing the Flags final for the past three seasons, Mellor were at last triumphant, beating Heaton Mersey 13-10 in the *Daily Telegraph* Senior Flags Final at Didsbury yesterday. But it was touch-and-go with the score tied at 10-10 at full time. In eight minutes of extra time, Jon Lowe scored twice and Andy Bickerton once to give Mellor their victory.

3 EXPLOSIVE GAMES AT TWICKENHAM!
WILLIS CORROON INTER SERVICE RUGBY CHAMPIONSHIP
ROYAL NAVY v ARMY
Saturday 12 April 1997. Kick-off 3pm
12.30pm U-21 match
England Students v Combined Services
ARMY v ROYAL AIR FORCE
Wednesday 16 April 1997. Kick-off 3pm
12.30pm match
Portsmouth Grammar School v King's School, Bruton
ROYAL AIR FORCE v ROYAL NAVY
Wednesday 23 April 1997. Kick-off 3pm
12.30pm match
Sussex v Hampshire Schools "U-12s"
Adults £10 (Juniors half-price) Family £20
(2 adults & 2 children) School Parties £1 per person
Tickets from Credit Card Hotline
01705 865575 or at the gate

Middlesbrough flair effectively stifled by honest endeavour and defensive resistance

Leicester draw on survival instinct

Leicester City 1
Middlesbrough 1

(AFTER EXTRA TIME)
BY OLIVER HOLT
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THEY came to Wembley yesterday, the Middlesbrough and Leicester City fans, hoping and fearing in turn that they were about to witness the grace and guile of a fine player winning the Coca-Cola Cup for the team from the North-East. They were expecting Juninho to monopolise the game with his darting runs and his passing and moving. Instead, they were left to witness a different kind of beauty.

For two hours of a largely drab game devoid of chances and so lacking in inspiration that neither team managed a shot on target in the first half, the 76,000 fans who swarmed down the M1 ignoring predictions of bomb scares at the ground watched an unheralded Swedish midfielder strike a blow for the ordinary across the world.

For those 120 minutes, Pontus Kaamark played Salieri to Juninho's Mozart, shadowing him all over the pitch. Wherever the diminutive Brazilian took him, Kaamark followed, stifling, blocking, tackling, pushing, harrying, so that Juninho was thrown out of his stride.

United humbled 28
Dublin strikes 29
Bolton promoted 31

Barring one rash challenge in the 34th minute, which earned him a booking from Martin Bodenham, the referee, the timing of the Swede's interventions was impeccable. In the 61st minute, he prevented his side going a goal down by glancing away a Ravanelli cross just as Juninho was about to nod it into the empty goal. By the end of normal time, the Brazilian was a picture of unhappiness, so frustrated that he was booked for dissent.

For some, perhaps, there is only ugliness in the neutralising of such a sublime talent, but there is nobility, too, in doing a job well and succeeding in the task even if, on this performance, at least, the Swede did not appear to have a creative bone in his body.

Martin O'Neill, the Leicester manager, may be criticised for trying to strangle a player of Juninho's ability but, ultimately, the onus lay on the Brazilian to shake his marker off. In the last meeting between these two clubs, at Filbert Street, Juninho ran the show for the first half, bamboozling Leicester so completely that he had put the game out of their reach by half-time. O'Neill learnt his lesson, changed his tactics and nullified the threat.

Yesterday, Juninho managed to escape his shackles just once, when 94 minutes had already elapsed. He received the ball from Ravanelli on the edge of the area and wriggled past Kaamark deep in the crowded penalty area. The attention was so tight that the ball ran away from him, but his dribble had caused such panic in the Leicester defence that Lennon could only poke the ball back to Ravanelli, who lashed an unstoppable shot into the back of the net.

At last, after all their trials and tribulations this season, the docking of points for the postponement of their match at Blackburn Rovers last December, the dismay caused by Emerson's leaves of absence and Ravanelli's occasional carping on trips to Italy, it seemed that everything would be worth it. The courageous reliance of their manager, Bryan Robson, on style over substance seemed to have paid off.

Leicester, who had offered little but defensive resistance and had not created a chance all afternoon, seemed incapable of capitalising on their reprieve, but their spirit, as typified by Kaamark, saved them as the game entered the final furlong.

Three minutes from the end of extra time, with the Middlesbrough supporters chanting victory songs, Robins retrieved a blocked cross on the right-hand edge of the Middlesbrough penalty area and tried again. This time, his centre was headed back in by Walsh and then nodded on to the bar by Heskey. Claridge poked the ball back towards the goal line and Heskey reacted quickest and strongest to force the ball into the net.

The Middlesbrough players stared at the ground in disbelief when the final whistle blew and Juninho, in particular, seemed inconsolable. Wrapped in a Brazil flag, he did not join in Middlesbrough's half-hearted lap of honour but stood forlornly in the centre circle instead. A week on Wednesday, when the teams meet again at Hillsborough for the replay, Kaamark will be waiting for him.

LEICESTER CITY (4-5-1): K Keller — S Grayson, S Walsh, S Prior, M Whitlow (sub: M Robins, 105mins — M Izzet (sub: S Taylor 108), N Lennon, G Parker, P Kaamark, E Heskey — S Claridge
MIDDLESBROUGH (4-3-1-2): M Schwarzer — N Cox, N Pearson, G Festa, C Fleming — C Hignett, Emerson, R Mustoe — Juninho — M Beck, F Ravanelli
Referee: M Bodenham



Robson, the manager, and the Middlesbrough bench show their frustration at another near miss at Wembley yesterday. Photograph: Raoul Dixon

Extra mile ordered on long march towards cup honour



Ravanelli: dangerous

Michael Henderson says replay crowd deserves better than yesterday's fare

When you have waited 122 years to win a cup of any significance, as Middlesbrough have, or only 113 years, like Leicester, another ten days is the merest shift of sand. One hopes the crowd at Hillsborough on Wednesday week sees a better match than this. On a bright afternoon made for football the players were unable to provide very much to savour.

In the case of these clubs a bit of perspective helps. When Middlesbrough was founded in 1875 Gladstone was trying to pacify Ireland, and Wagner was completing the score of *Götterdämmerung*. Leicester's foundation in 1884 was overshadowed by news of Gordon fighting off the Mahdist hordes in Khartoum. Their winning of the old League Cup in 1964 can be discounted. The final was played over two legs in those days, and regarded as an amusement for those below the salt.

Leicester were the relieved ones last night after Heskey scrambled a goal with two minutes left when there were more bodies on the goalline than in a Scottish taxi. The goal served as a useful commentary on the quality of the match, for there was precious little to enjoy by way of craft. Leicester had the best player in Parker, and Middlesbrough the most dangerous in Ravanelli, but apart from the goals there were few chances at either end.

It was a rum old day all round. First of all, to keep the crowd engaged or amused, there was a pick-up match between teams of low-grade "celebrities" who could barely raise a gallop. This, surely, is an abuse of Wembley. Once upon a time you had to earn the right to play there.

Then there was a particularly feeble display of choreographed nonsense on the field, set to deafening pop music, for the benefit of Sky Television's live coverage. So by the time the teams emerged, to the firing of fireworks, the crowd had been whipped into the sort of stage-managed frenzy Orwell described in *1984*. Had nobody considered that, with Leicester making their first cup final appearance since 1969, and Middlesbrough at Wembley for the first time, the fans might be sufficiently excited without having to endure this emotional manipulation?

For the first half there was at least the prospect of an interesting match. Leicester are a limited team but in those opening minutes they passed the ball quickly and accurately, and quite showed up their expensively-assembled opponents. Parker settled immediately into the match, and moreover kept it up throughout the two hours, but neither he nor Lennon could really stir Claridge or Heskey into anything more threatening than nuisance value.

On their team spirit alone Leicester have already travelled far. Most neutrals, one feels, would like them to win the replay, if only for the way Martin O'Neill has confounded all expectations by keeping their heads above water in a season that was always going to be difficult. Players like Walsh and Whitlow have been around a long time, without having much to show for it. Now, if they keep their heads, they might.

For Middlesbrough it turned out to be the worst of days. They were denied victory when they thought they had done enough to win, and they left the field to hear that Coventry's win at Anfield had sent them back into the bottom three of the FA Carling Premiership.

At the end Emerson, that gifted midfielder, was busy spewing out his disenchantment to anybody who would listen.

One hopes that Leicester prevail but to do so they will have to keep as tight a watch as they did yesterday on Juninho, a player who has genuinely served the club. Ravanelli, of course, always needs watching. But there is no doubt they can do it.

SQUASH

Australian wins her fifth British Open title

BY COLIN MCQUILLAN

MICHELLE MARTIN, 29, from Australia, returned to the top of the women's game in Cardiff yesterday when she defeated her top-seeded compatriot, Sarah Fitz-Gerald, the world champion, 9-5, 9-10, 9-5, 9-5 in the 66-minute final of the Leekes British Open Championship.

It was Martin's fifth successive win in the game's greatest tournament and delivered her promise of "setting the record straight" after losing the world title and No 1 spot to the 28-year-old Fitz-Gerald last year.

The defending champion proved the stronger at the end of each game and might have won in straight games had her fightback from 5-8 to 9-8 in the second not been stopped by a scintillating forehand by Fitz-Gerald at full stretch.

"This is more important than my first British Open win after losing the world title," Martin declared joyfully, after the best match of the tournament.

The home interest was very much alive in the men's final scheduled for late last night. Peter Nicol's progress from repeatedly jinxed British Open first-round failure to threatening finalist against Jansher Khan, the defending champion, at the Wales National Ice Rink yesterday, gathered further gloss on Saturday when, on his 24th birthday, he became the first Scottish finalist for more than 33 years.

"Just reaching the British Open final is the greatest moment of my individual career," the left-hander from Inverurie said. For five years, Nicol had not survived the first round.

Cardiff results 37

"I had come to dread the British Open." Nicol said after defeating the 29-year-old second-seeded Australian, Rodney Eyles, 5-15, 15-12, 17-14, 15-2, in a semi-final that lasted 76 minutes. "Now I am really enjoying it and thinking it could easily become my favourite tournament."

The manner of Nicol's advance to the final, and the opportunity of becoming the first British winner since Jonah Barrington defeated Gogi Alaudin at Abbeydale in 1973, would please any player.

Since then Geoff Hunt, of Australia, has taken eight titles, Jahangir Khan, of Pakistan, ten in a row, and Jansher Khan five in seven final appearances.

The 27-year-old Pakistani's approach to a sixth title was looking effortless until he ran into Ahmed Barada, 19, the seventh-seeded Egyptian, who stopped Australia's tired giantkiller, Dan Jenson, in a quarter-final that lasted just over 90 minutes.

Barada ran a rough, tough and talented assault against the defending champion, losing 13-15, 15-8, 15-8, 15-4, in 65 minutes that Jansher acknowledged may be a foretaste of what is to come. Eyles may now realise that his problems have already arrived in the shape of Nicol.

GOLF

Olazabal closes on leaders

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, IN NEW ORLEANS

THE extraordinary form that José María Olazábal has demonstrated since he returned from his enforced absence from tournament golf two months ago continued in the delayed third round of the Freeport McDermott Classic yesterday.

Olazábal, having got up at 4.45am, birdied two of his remaining nine holes for a 67. He was ten under par after three rounds. Brad Faxon, the American Ryder Cup player, was 13 under and Kirk Triplett, a playing partner of Olazábal's, 12 under, with Scott McCarron, the defending champion, 11 under. A 68 took Jesper Parnevik to seven under par. Such has been Olazábal's form here that victory, in only his fourth tournament since his comeback, was a distinct possibility.

The heavy rain that had moved from Texas into Louisiana and limited play to less than three hours on Saturday had gone, to be replaced by a morning of startling brilliance and clear skies. Even so, having to play 27 holes in a day was not what Olazábal wanted. Playing well was proof that his recovery from suspected rheumatoid arthritis continues, however, and he accepted it with a shrug of his shoulders. "I would prefer to play only 18," he said before he began his final round. "Yesterday was a long day and today is a long day."

Though Olazábal's all-round play remained good, his driving, which has always been his Achilles' heel, was erratic. He missed one fairway with his driver in his outward half on Saturday and four more with the same club yesterday. English Turn is a punishing test of golf, with greens that are hard to reach and flags that are not easy to get at from many parts of the greens. "I was hitting it left and right from the tee, everywhere except down the middle," Olazábal said.

The rest of his game was as sharp as a pin, particularly his putting. When Olazábal putts well, as he been here, his ball rolls across the green more smoothly than most other players'. From the moment it leaves the putter face it is possible to see that it has been truly struck, regardless of whether it goes into the hole.

Olazábal's birdie on the long 2nd came after he had driven into a bunker from the tee and put his second into a greenside bunker. Bunkers for him are not obstacles. His third stroke ended four feet away. He sank an eight-foot putt to save his par on the 6th and then, on the 8th, he rolled in a 35-footer that looked certain to end near the hole from the moment he struck it.

From the moment that he walked, in that distinctive way of his, towards the tee at Dubai to play the opening stroke of his comeback, Olazábal has been calm and low-key. It is as if the experiences he has gone through have matured him and made him less excitable. "I get less worked up than I used to," he admitted. "I do not get so cross with myself."

It also means that, publicly at least, his expectations are low. He said that he was surprised to win his third event, the Turespaña Masters, and that he did not expect to do very well here. This, at least, has to be taken with a pinch of salt. As he prepared to play the sixteenth round of his comeback he was 5! under par. Only two of those rounds had been over par. If this is what he meant when he said he did not expect to do well, goodness knows what will happen when he says he does.

NETBALL

A conflict of interests for promising Percy

BEDFORD and Canterbury were the places to be for England's elite players this weekend. Liz Broomhead's senior international squad joined their Under-21 counterparts for a training session at Kent University, while the Under-18s and Under-16s enjoyed a get-together at Bedford's De Montfort University (a Special Correspondent writes).

In the days when De Montford University was a straightforward teacher training college, many of today's Under-16s were at primary school but now many face a conflict of interests: netball or GCSEs.

Take Vicky Percy, the England Under-16 captain. She had to travel all the way to Bedford from her home in Newcastle to attend the training session.

Percy belongs to Tyneside's Wallsend netball club which is threatening to prove a conveyor-belt of talent comparable to the Wallsend boy's football club which has produced a stream of leading players, including Peter Beardsley.

But with GCSEs impending and the netball season approaching a climax, Percy's loyalties are understandably torn. "I have to concentrate on my exam work, especially French," she said. "I want to go to sixth form college next year but, of course, I will carry on playing netball.

"It's excellent being part of a team and really good fun travelling around. In 1996 there was a big end-of-year climax with an Under-16 tour of Australia. This year there is no tour, only training sessions. Australia was great; they play a much more physical game than us but once we adjusted to their style we won everything."

If Percy continues winning and eventually succeeds Fiona Murtagh, the England senior captain, the days when exams had to be juggled with circuit training will seem a breeze.

Murtagh gets up at 6.30am to travel from Essex to work as a London personnel officer all week, training every evening except Friday; Saturdays see her playing while Sundays are spent training or coaching.

However, by the time Percy reaches her twenties, netball might have emulated rugby union and turned professional. With lottery assistance, England's seniors should soon be eligible for individual grants of up to £28,000 a year.



FOOTBALL

Derby's day as United fail to pay attention

Manchester United 2
Derby County 3

BY PETER BALL

"ANY mistakes now, and you cut your own throat," Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, said on Friday afternoon. Twenty-four hours later, with a bit of help from Derby County, his team proceeded to do just that.

The result, deservedly, took Derby a huge step towards FA Carling Premiership survival, for their contribution to an astonishing, and ultimately thrilling, game was immense. Jim Smith, the Derby manager, won a tactical battle, man-marking everywhere. He played with two strikers wide to stop the United full backs, and his side produced all the unlikely heroes, from Paulo Wanchope, a Costa Rican who scored on his debut, to the unsung Paul Trollope.

On transfer deadline day,



Schmeichel: late error

Trollope almost joined Chesterfield. On Saturday, he was man of the match for his marking job on Cantona, while still finding the time to go forward and create some of Derby's better chances.

"We worked on a plan in training this week with Marco Gabbiadini being our Cantona," Trollope said. "He wasn't too pleased because I kicked lumps out of him."

Having Gabbiadini as his double might not please Cantona too much either, but on Saturday he, and United, had other problems. All the talk around Old Trafford recently has been of the possibility of having to play four games in eight days on the run-in, with its unhappy overtones of 1992, when United let the title slip from their grasp.

On Saturday, apart from his defence, the main target for Ferguson's ire was Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, who had been incautious enough to suggest that United should put up or shut up rather than appealing to the Premier League to extend the season.

But, if 1992 is an awful memory, the shades of 1968 may be more appropriate. Then United frittered away a significant lead in the championship as the European Cup loomed large in their sights.

In 1968, they at least won the bigger trophy. On Saturday's form, that would seem unlikely, but Ferguson put a brave face on things. "It might be a useful warning," he said. "The concentration level will be high after that."

It certainly was not on Saturday. One of the best defences in the Premiership looked more like the worst and, in front of them, Keane was so subdued that he survived 90 minutes with David Elleray as referee without being booked.

United began brightly enough, but soon, as Trollope began to impose himself on Cantona, and Laursen on Giggs, the cracks began to appear behind.

Ward scored one and missed twice as the defence just parted in front of him. "He scuffed his shot for the goal, he should have scuffed the other shots, too, and he'd probably have scored," Smith said. Wanchope ensured a memorable debut with a 60-yard run without challenge. A third goal, and it would probably have been all over, but Ward's misses gave United breathing space.

As it was, United left the field at the interval to scattered boos. After 90 minutes, both sides deserved their standing ovation. United's recovery failed as Schmeichel's error gave Sturridge Derby's decisive third goal, but it was a glorious failure, producing as thrilling a 45 minutes as one could wish to see.

Van der Laan, Darryl Powell, McGrath and Trollope were heroic but, even so, United scored twice and Trollope discovered that even when you keep Cantona quiet the term is relative. The Frenchman escaped his attentions to score United's first and supplied the long ball, aimed for Cole, which McGrath deflected into Solskjaer's path for the second. Ultimately, however, it was still not quite enough.

MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-1-1): P Schmeichel — G Neville (sub: D Irwin, 89min), R Johnsen, G Pallister (sub: P Scholes, 85), P Neville — D Beckham, R Keane, N Butt (sub: O G Solskjaer, 46), R Giggs — E Cantona — A Cole.
DERBY COUNTY (3-1-3-3): M Poom — J Laursen, P McGrath, C Dailly — P Trollope — R van der Laan, D Powell, C Powell — P Wanchope (sub: P Simpson, 85), A Ward, D Sturridge.
Referee: D Elleray



Platt, right, scorer of the second Arsenal goal, tussles for possession during the defeat of Chelsea. Photograph: Ben Radford / Allsport

Wright dismisses Chelsea on the nod

Oliver Holt, football correspondent, on how the extravagance of the evergreen striker stood out in a 3-0 Arsenal victory

IAN WRIGHT was trying out a new routine. The ball was in the back of the net, dispatched there emphatically by the Arsenal striker's left boot, and now he was walking towards the touchline, nodding his head quickly and repeatedly with a mannered expression on his face, milking the adoration of the away fans. "It's my Jamie Redknapp," he said afterwards. "It's my new one. It's a good one. I might keep it."

Wright's homage to his England team-mate, his impersonation of the Liverpool midfield player's reaction to scoring a goal, was just the start of his bravura performance at Stamford Bridge on Saturday. No matter how many goals he scores, how fast they keep flowing, he keeps finding new ways to celebrate.

Ruud Gullit, the Chelsea manager, busy finding new ways to berate, said that Arsenal had waltzed through the London derby like a team playing an exhibition game and, although Bergkamp was sublime, a prosecutor and an executioner rolled into one, there was no doubt who the exhibitionist was. Wright was going through his bag of tricks as Arsenal kept their slim hopes of winning the FA Carling Premiership alive.

The goal, Arsenal's opener midway through the first half, was his most obvious contribution. Zola, lacklustre after playing for Italy in the goalless draw with Poland last Wednesday, gave the ball away on the halfway line. Bergkamp swept a fine, first-time pass between two defenders into Wright's path and he lashed it past Grodas from 20 yards.

His 27th goal of the season took him to within seven of the Arsenal career record held by Cliff Bastin, a record he could still equal or beat by the end of this campaign. At the start of the second half, though, he turned provider, squaring the ball across the face of the Chelsea goal in the 53rd minute for the unmarked Platt to side-foot into the net.

After that, Chelsea, depleted by four suspensions and injuries to Leboeuf and Newton, wilted in the sun. Vialli was given a last chance in place of Hughes but, just as they used to say Liverpool always won when Ian Rush scored, now they observe that Chelsea always lose when the Italian striker plays. A fallen idol, he looked like a blunt instrument compared with the rapier that was Wright.

By midway through the second half, Wright, a player so keyed-up for games that he almost got into a fight with a linesman while he was warming up on the Wembley touchline during the England-Mexico match, was indulging in a few party pieces, trapping one ball that fell awkwardly over his shoulder stone dead with one touch, attempting ambitious chips, waving to the Arsenal supporters chanting his name.

Amid all that, though, he chased back tirelessly, robbing the plodding Chelsea midfield time and time again as they stumbled forward. Six minutes from the end, after Bergkamp had completed Chelsea's misery by pouncing on an aerial defensive mix-up to take the ball round Grodas and slide it into the net, Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, took Wright off to give Nicolas Anelka some brief league experience before confirming that the 34-year-old was an integral part of his plans for the future.

"Ian will be a key player here as long as he performs well," Wenger said, "and I cannot think after what I saw today, at the start of April, that by August he will not be able to run any more. He is a very speedy guy and even if he loses a yard of pace, he will still have good speed for some time to come."

Gullit, never a man to spare his charges, was contemptuous of the Chelsea players. He did not name names but Vialli, who had seen a shot rebound off a post in the closing minutes, was damned by implication and only Jody Morris, the young midfield player, and Dan Petrescu were excluded from the manager's cold fury.

"Everybody in the stadium was astonished about this performance," Gullit said. "It was humiliating. If I had played like this I would be ashamed of myself, but there were not enough of them who were angry about it afterwards.

"They were going up to the Arsenal players in the centre circle and shaking hands and saying 'yes, thank you'. I could not believe it.

"The younger players who came in for today's match needed some help, especially from key players, and they did not get it. They embarrassed themselves and the crowd. Today was an opportunity for some players to show themselves, but now I have to make my conclusions from what I have seen, not only for the FA Cup semi-final next Sunday but for the future."

Vialli, it seems, may be on his way out. Wright is still on his way up.

CHELSEA (3-5-2): F Grodas — P Parker (sub: D Granville, 45min), S Clarke, E Johnsen (sub: A Myers, 45) — D Petrescu, C Burley, J Morris, P Hughes, S Minto — G Vialli, G Zola.
ARSENAL (3-5-2): D Seaman — M Keown, R Garde, S Bould — L Dixon, D Platt, P Vieira (sub: I Selley, 85), S Hughes (sub: R Parlour, 77), N Winterburn — D Bergkamp, I Wright (sub: N Anelka, 85).
Referee: R Dilkes

Bassett laments Forest's failure to fight

Nottingham Forest 1
Southampton 3

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

AT THE City Ground before kick-off on Saturday, a leaflet in the match programme reminded home supporters of the "official Nottingham Forest end-of-season clearance sale". It had started on March 15 and offered "star value" for those enticed by its pretty pictures and persuasive prices.

At the close of the FA Carling Premiership game against Southampton, 12 other items had been added to the list of bargains: Crossley, Lyttle, Pearce, Cooper, Chettle, Phillips, Gemmill, Saunders, Woan, Van Hooijdonk, Haaland and Roy. It is unlikely there were any takers, even with discount.

Forest were abysmal, appalling, atrocious — any derogatory adjective would suffice, but for a relatively spirited second-half showing, from the ashes of a dire first-half display, it would have been total surrender. The Forest fans, long-suffering souls this season, could stomach no more. They left in droves well before the end.

Southampton relied mostly on the complementary clones of Oakley, Berkovic, Slater and Magilton in midfield — all hurry and scurry, hustle and bustle — and looked good. Had their approach play not broken down so frequently in the last third of the pitch, Forest could have been swamped.

"If we survive, it'll be because we've tried to play football," Graeme Souness, the Southampton manager, said. "We don't resort to humping the ball and chasing it. Whatever happens, I've still enjoyed it. I'm working with a bunch of very honest players and you can't ask for more than that."

Honesty, integrity, pride — the prerequisites for any professional footballer, monstrously paid or otherwise. Southampton have them in abundance and thus have a chance of preserving their top-flight status, but Forest's players exhibit all the hallmarks of having prematurely accepted the inevitable.

Full results and league tables ....Page 30

"We're not talking about a bunch of kids here," Dave Bassett, Forest's recently installed general manager, said. "They're all Premiership players and should be able to perform like them. Some of them didn't seem to be out there; we didn't show enough fight, enough bottle."

Bassett's arrival — intended to provide assistance and assurance for Stuart Pearce, the caretaker player-manager — has only added to the confusion, with several players privately and publicly voicing concern as to who is pulling the strings. Pressed on the subject, Bassett was categorical, if unconvincing.

"Stuart picks the team, does the coaching and does the tactics," he said. "I don't do any of that unless I'm asked. I'm the general manager; that's what I came here as and that's what I am. If a year down the line I don't like it, then we'll see what happens.

"Quite frankly, it doesn't matter whether it's me or Stuart who is in charge if we play like that. Even Terry Venables would struggle to do the job. I'm not a magician, I'm not Harry Houdini. They were in this mess before I came here."

Forest are now in a deeper shade of mess, with confidence shattered and games running out. Magilton thrust another dagger to the heart in the eighth minute, when his swerving 30-yard shot deceived Crossley, and Southampton strode elegantly onwards. In a frantic finish, Evans capitalised on Pearce's poor backpass, Pearce atoned with a penalty, then Evans again ran through unimpeded.

At least Forest can look forward to April 15, when they play Mansfield Town in the Nottinghamshire County Cup semi-finals. Pearce, Bassett or the tea lady, whoever picks the side, should field the entire first team; it will give them a foretaste of what probably lies ahead next season.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (4-4-2): M Crossley — D Lyttle, C Cooper, S Chettle, Pearce — D Phillips, A I Haaland, Gemmill, I Woan (sub: B Roy, 57min) — D Saunders, P van Hooijdonk.
SOUTHAMPTON (4-3-1-2): M Taylor — U van Gobbel, J Dodd, C Lundekvam, J Benali — M Oakley (sub: A Neilson, 63), J Magilton, R Slater — E Berkovic (sub: N Maddison, 90) — M Le Tissier (sub: M Evans, 89), E Ostenstadt.
Referee: A Wilkie

Kinnear powerless to ward off semi-final syndrome

Tottenham Hotspur 1
Wimbledon 0

BY BRIAN GLANVILLE

ARE we witnessing the gentrification of Wimbledon? A team so long renowned for being abrasvive, combative, even provocative, were "as gentle as any sucking dove" at White Hart Lane on Saturday. The words, of course, are Bottom's and bottom, in the view of Wimbledon's manager, Joe Kinnear, was precisely what his team lacked.

"We didn't play at all, not at all," he lamented. "We would almost have been doing Tottenham a disservice if we had got away with a draw. I've got two or three thinking of Chelsea [in Sunday's FA Cup semi-final]. I told them I'm not accepting that. If that's going to be their attitude, they are not going to play against Chelsea."

He was especially irate about the goal with which Tottenham belatedly, but deservedly, won the game after 81 minutes, when Dozzell drifted across goal to glance home Sinton's left-wing corner. "It was a very easy goal to defend against," Kinnear said.

Wimbledon's limp display was the more surprising in that they met yet another Tottenham team ravaged by injury, while Calderwood, who was on the bench, is awaiting a cartilage operation. With the exception Ekoku, called up for international duty by Nigeria, Wimbledon put out a full team. Not until four minutes from the end did Kinnear bring on a substitute.

"I wanted them to stay on that pitch and work hard," he said. "Why should I make an easy option for them? They're getting paid to play. Whether they're playing the next time remains to be seen."

By contrast, Gerry Francis the Tottenham manager, was "happier" though he was entitled to feel disappointed that so little came from so many chances..

He may have had a point when he claimed that Nielsen was not offside when he volleyed home in the first half. Against that, though, when Sheringham brought a marvellous early save from Sullivan, Rosenthal may well have been offside.

In a largely arid first half, Tottenham made all the opportunites. Five minutes from the break, Nielsen's long throw from the right came straight back to him. He headed the ball into the goalmouth and Dozzell, threatening all afternoon, headed it against a post from where it bounced into the hands of a grateful goalkeeper.



Francis: happy for Dozzell

In the first minute of the second half, Sheringham headed Austin's right-wing cross against the top of the bar, Francis reflecting that this was the eighteenth time that had happened to his team this season.

It took an hour before Wimbledon menaced Tottenham's goal, Leonhardsen finished a strong run with a pass that Holdsworth struck hard and true. Walker, alert despite his previous idleness, dived to turn the ball round the post.

Sinton, whose two previous long-range efforts had flown high and wide, now found the target with a drive that sprang out of Sullivan's arms before he held it at the second attempt. In the closing minutes, Rosenthal ran wild and free down the left and twice came close to scoring a goal.

Francis said he was pleased for Dozzell, who has taken much abuse from the crowd this season and seems set on escape when it and his contract end. "Everyone wants to be liked," Francis said. "Everyone wants to be the crowd's favourite, but that's not always the way it is."

The crowd have come round to Dozzell now, but it may be too late.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-4-2): I Walker — D Austin, S Campbell, J Scales, J Edinburgh — R Fox, A Nielsen, J Dozzell, A Sinton — E Sheringham, R Rosenthal.
WIMBLEDON (4-4-2): N Sullivan — K Cunningham, D Blackwell, C Perry, A Kimble — V Jones, N Ardley (sub: J Goodman, 86), R Earle, O Leonhardsen — J Holdsworth, M Gayle.
Referee: K Burge.

Racist slur blamed for mass brawl

A TOUCHLINE punch-up, involving all 22 players, coaching staff and substitutes, soured Crystal Palace youths' 1-0 South East Counties League second division win against Wimbledon at Palace's Mitcham training ground on Saturday.

The unsavoury incident happened just seconds after Palace's leading scorer, Clinton Morrison, had beaten Pat Jennings, son of the former Northern Ireland goalkeeper, to put the league leaders in front after 25 minutes.

The fracas occurred on the touchline where Wimbledon's coaching staff were situated alongside supporters. It is believed it was sparked by a racist remark made to one of the Wimbledon playing staff.

Palace officials, including Peter Nicholas, the youth team manager and former Wales midfield player, followed the players across the field to the melée. Nicholas said afterwards: "I did not see the incident as I was on the other touchline when it started."

It took three minutes before order could be restored. The referee, Douglas Tooley, of St Paul's Cray, said he would seek guidance from the South East Counties League regarding any possible further action.

Alan Leather, the League secretary, said: "The referee was in charge of the game and if he does not make a report then the matter will be taken no further and there will be no inquiry." Palace's win keeps alive their hopes of a fourth successive league title.

Everton lose early sparkle after Watson's pep talk

Aston Villa 3
Everton 1

BY NICK SZCZEPANIK

WHATEVER it was that Dave Watson said in his first half-time team talk as Everton's acting player-manager, he would be well advised to change the script next time.

An even first half was followed by such a one-sided second period that Everton barely managed a shot in the entire 45 minutes, while Villa, who had looked unconvincing earlier in the match, could have doubled their final score.

Watson has only six games to get it right, beginning on Wednesday when Leicester City visit Goodison. And while Everton are better-placed then some, and could plead, in mitigation, that they were down to their last 11 fit men at Villa Park, they dropped closer to the FA Carling Premiership danger zone after this result on Saturday and came off looking dispirited and demoralised.

It could all have been so different. Everton opened with some determination and took a thirteenth minute lead when Unsworth hooked the ball in at the second attempt from Ferguson's header. They could already have been ahead. Stuart forcing Oakes into a superb, one-handed save after Thomsen had dummied Ferguson's cross, then shooting straight at the goalkeeper when Farrelly's back-pass sold Staunton short.

The defence, however, always suggested there was a way through for Villa, especially when Staunton's run and one-two with Draper gave Milosevic a good chance that he squandered with an embarrassing air-shot. Perhaps Everton imagined that, if the Serb was in that sort of form, they need pay him no further attention. At any rate, five minutes before half-time, they failed to clear a corner and Milosevic was left unmarked to head in.

Parkinson could have restored the lead late in the half, but shot wide; within ten minutes of the restart, the contest was over. First Staunton's free kick flew past Southall from 20 yards, then Farrelly's cross was headed down to Yorke, attended only by a team-mate — another dreadful piece of Everton marking — and his volley, although mis-hit, beat the unprotected Southall. "We didn't react well to their second goal," Watson said. "Everything seemed to go a bit dead after they went 2-1 up.



Milosevic: equaliser

One or two heads dropped and that's something we need to put right."

Villa, in contrast, with Milosevic now a man inspired and the visitors marking and passing sloppily, should have added to their lead several times.

Comfortable for his team in the end, then, but Brian Little, the Villa manager, was not fooled. "It wasn't comfortable for 45 minutes," he admitted. "In their situation, conceding a goal knocks something out of you. Once we'd scored a couple, it could have been more, but I'm happy."

Cautious as ever, Little downplayed the significance of the weekend's scores for Villa's European ambitions. "We've had a lot of these days, when results have gone for us, then we've not responded in the next game," he said. "Experience this season suggests we're quite capable of not following up this result. It's in our hands. If we don't qualify for Europe, it will be our fault."

Watson had other priorities. "We've got to get today out of our minds and prepare for Wednesday," he said. "The worst thing is if you sit and mope. We have the quality as long as more don't go down injured." And as long as he finds something different to say at half-time.

ASTON VILLA (3-5-2): M Oakes — U Ehiogu, S Staunton (sub: D Hughes, 58min), G Southgate — F Nelson, I Taylor (sub: S Curcic, 81), M Draper, G Farrelly, A Wright — D Yorke, S Milosevic.
EVERTON (3-5-2): N Southall — C Short, D Watson, D Unsworth (sub: R Dunne, 61) — M Hottiger (sub: M Branch, 56), C Thomsen, J Parkinson, G Speed, T Phelan — G Stuart, D Ferguson.
Referee: J Winter

FOOTBALL: COVENTRY IMPROVE PREMIERSHIP SURVIVAL HOPES WITH DRAMATIC VICTORY AT ANFIELD

Dublin exposes Liverpool's flaws

Liverpool 1
Coventry City 2

BY DAVID MADDOCK

SHOULD Liverpool — despite themselves — somehow manage to win the FA Carling Premiership, it will be more a reflection of the paucity of real quality in English football than of their own pedigree. Liverpool, simply, have failed to assume the demeanour of champions, despite lurking around the head of the table for so long.

What defines champions? Above all it is the ability to win matches that matter, and Liverpool — the game against Arsenal at Highbury two weeks ago apart — have consistently failed to do that. Coventry City are a poor team, yet they left Anfield yesterday almost amused at the manner of a victory that takes them off the bottom and out of the relegation places.

Coventry had previously won three games away from home all season, scoring 13 goals in 16 matches. They came to Anfield without a win in eight matches, in search of a point, yet they survived a first half in which Liverpool created ten chances without looking like converting one of them, and when the home side did muster a goal, Coventry were allowed to step up a gear and reply with two, both the result of desperately poor defending. Although Steve McManaman, their most influential player, was carrying a thigh injury, one word, spat out by a disgusted supporter as he trudged from the ground, summed up Liverpool's performance: spineless.

TOP FIVE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man Utd	32	18	9	5	63	36	63
Arsenal	33	17	9	7	55	28	60
Liverpool	32	17	9	6	54	26	60
Newcastle	31	15	8	8	60	37	53
Aston Villa	32	15	8	9	40	28	53

Roy Evans, the manager, spoke of poor defending and a lack of concentration. "We did everything right, had the chances, had the patience and then scored the goal," he said. "But we got caught out with two innocuous goals and you can't talk your way around that. It was just poor defending. It was a bit embarrassing because we had so much of the game."

Evans has paid a heavy price for failing to find an adequate reserve for Collymore. For too long the burden of attacking creativity has rested on the willing shoulders of McManaman and Fowler. When, as in this game, those two are subdued, there is little else.

It was not, as Gordon Strachan, the Coventry manager, pointed out, that Liverpool played badly, more that they failed to find the ruthless instincts required in these situations. "They were technically brilliant in the first half and we couldn't hope to live with them," Strachan said, "but we stuck at it, and got something from set-pieces, which we work on. It wasn't plan A, more like about plan G."

Evans was at a loss to explain how his side had once more failed to take a clear opportunity offered by Manchester United. "It's true, they keep slipping up and letting us in, but we haven't taken those chances and it's very difficult to explain why," he said. At this rate it will be Arsenal who sneak in on the blind-side to steal the title.

The tone for this bizarre contest was set as early as the second minute when Fowler, quite superbly, found McManaman steaming forward, but the midfield player missed what, for him, should have been the simplest of opportunities.

At least ten chances later — more — it appeared the same old story of a frustrating season for Liverpool. Desperation replaced composure in their passing and Coventry were on course to become the latest in a long line of lower-positioned clubs to take unlikely points from Anfield.

Ultimately they did, but not in the manner that was expected. Seven minutes after the interval, Fowler found a finish described as "world-class" by Strachan. Barnes produced a wonderful pass from midfield and the little forward unleashed a volley of such ferocity that it flew past Ogrizovic in the Coventry goal.

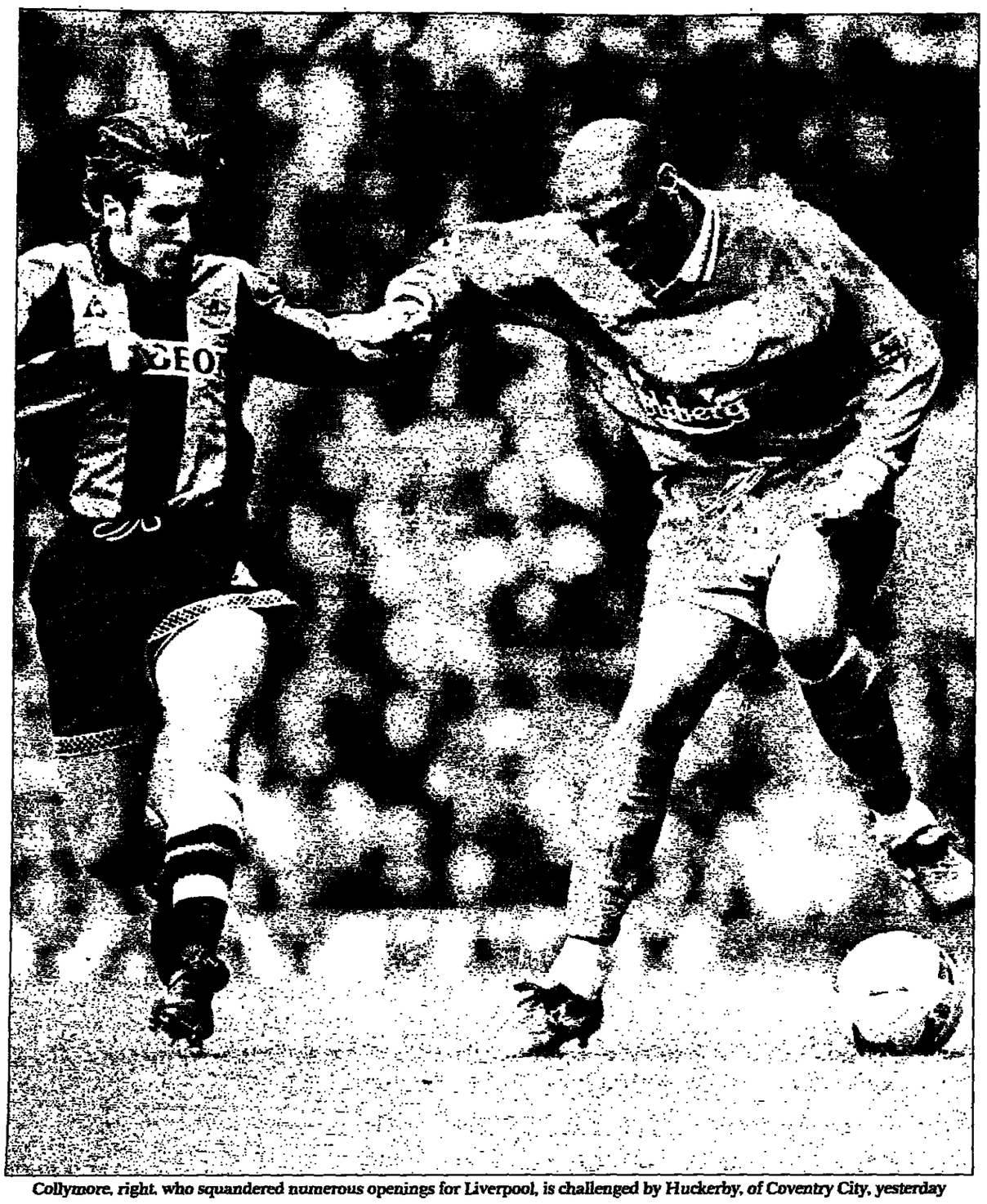
Liverpool, though, then showed a negligent disdain for the power of Coventry from set-pieces. The equaliser came after 65 minutes, when Dublin flicked on a corner from McAllister and Whelan was left unmarked within the six-yard box to steer his header into the net.

Even then, McManaman created a simple opportunity that Collymore somehow diverted over the crossbar. Berger, the substitute, also missed from close range. However, in stoppage time, James produced another of those poor decisions that undermine his goalkeeping. Coventry won a corner and James missed the ball at the near post to allow Dublin a simple tap-in.

LIVERPOOL (3-5-2): D James — B T Kvarme, D Matteo, S Harkness — J McAteer, J Redknapp, S McManaman, R Jones, J Barnes, S I Bjornebye (sub: P Berger, 77min) — S Collymore, R Fowler

COVENTRY CITY (5-3-2): S Ogrizovic — R Shaw, P Williams, D Dublin, D Burrows, P Ndlovu — N Whelan, K Richardson, G McAllister — D Huckerby (sub: G Strachan, 83), E Jess (sub: M Hall, 57)

Referee: P Danson.



Collymore, right, who squandered numerous openings for Liverpool, is challenged by Huckerby, of Coventry City, yesterday

When the mind wanders to lost opportunity

STEVE McMANAMAN



What can I say? It wasn't even as if we played that badly against Coventry City, but once again we made exactly the same errors that have dogged us all season. We created chances — plenty of them — but failed to take them and then gave them away at the other end.

Two moments when our concentration slipped cost us the match. But, really, we should have had the game sewn up a long time before Coventry had even threatened our goal. I missed an opportunity early in the game and that seemed to set a pattern because we lost count of the number of chances that we missed. There can be no other explanation. It is not bleating, but we had no luck whatsoever.

That is not an excuse, because there can be no excuses after losing in such a manner. Manchester United's surprise defeat the day before had allowed us an unlikely opportunity and we failed to take it. That is not the first time it has happened and we cannot afford to keep on doing it if we are to entertain any hopes of winning the championship.

If we win all our remaining games, then we will be champions, so all is not lost. But we cannot afford to play like that again and make any more mistakes this season.

There was a tremendous sense of disappointment in the dressing-room afterwards. We knew that we had thrown away a glorious opportunity. But then we also knew that Coventry would be fighting for their lives, because we have faced so many of the bottom clubs who respond in the same position.

It is indicative of the way our season has gone and also of the quality that there is within the Premiership. Even the sides at the bottom can give you a game because, while they may not be able to match us in quality, they have plenty of spirit as there is so much at stake.

I remember last season when we put Manchester City down by drawing with them on the last day. There were tears in their dressing-room and they were simply devastated after that match. It illustrates how much is at stake.

Coventry knew that their Premiership status depended on this result and there was pressure on them. It is a different type of pressure, but it seems to have the same effect. It seems to create a sense of desperate spirit in the sides.

It's strange how so many teams at the bottom suddenly start winning at this stage of the season. Who could possibly have bet against both Manchester United and Liverpool losing this weekend? I'll bet that the odds were tremendous on that particular double. But the point is, the sides at the bottom have a stark choice. They have to win, there are no more opportunities after this one.

The same can now be said of us and I just hope that we can finally learn the lesson that has eluded us so far this season.

At least we had a normal kick-off time against Coventry, if not the traditional day on which to play the game, which makes a change. I can't remember the last time we played at 3pm on a Saturday and it doesn't seem we will do it again this season.

We have played on Sundays, Mondays, Thursdays and kicked off at 4pm, 5pm, 8pm and even 11.15am, which is ludicrous. We have another game coming up at that early hour and it is the most disruptive timing of all the changes that can be made to the fixture list.

I watched Chelsea play Arsenal at that time on Saturday with some interest and it was clear that for the first 15 minutes or so neither side got going properly. They were obviously affected by the morning kick-off.

Why? Well, we played at 11.15 against Manchester United at Old Trafford and it can be very disruptive. They have switched our game at Anfield against them to the morning as well and, for the life of me, I can't see why. We have played United hundreds of times down the years at 3pm and there have been few problems.

Why this season do we have to play probably our two biggest games at such an unnatural time? It is disruptive because, for a start, you have to get up at 7am and then eat your pre-match meal at least three or four hours before the kick-off. That means dragging yourself out of bed bleary-eyed and then tucking into chicken, pasta, fish, steak or whatever.

At least the other kick-off times, when they are fiddled with, are later so it doesn't affect the routine too much. Mine is ripped up and thrown away when I play early.

Newcastle frailty exposed by evergreen Waddle

Newcastle United 1
Sunderland 1

BY DAVID MILLER

AN AFTERNOON that should alarm Kenny Dalglish. The worry on Saturday was less that his Newcastle side dropped two points in their local derby, than that for much of the time they were indistinguishable from Sunderland, whose all too modest season has left them close to relegation. A point for them was precious indeed.

It was a bad March for Newcastle: four defeats, including two by Monaco, plus a draw with Wimbledon and a single victory over struggling Coventry. The start of April was to prove not much better for this club bursting with ambition. For more than half the match they were a goal down, until rescued 11 minutes from time by the one accurate swing from the right boot of Alan Shearer, found loitering with intent.

"He has a gift," Peter Reid, the Sunderland manager, lamented. "Wherever he is in the penalty area, the ball comes to him." Limited in range though this gift may be — rather as was the devastating Gerd Muller's — it has made Shearer personally worth millions, said now to be in double figures.

On this occasion, returning after a three-week, six-match absence for another groin operation, and doggedly shadowed by Ord, he did not look worth even the interest on £10 million. Many players returning too early after a lay-off shelter their lack of fitness behind touches of finesse. Shearer does not have finesse unless shooting, and not always then. Five minutes after Michael Gray had put Sunderland in front on the half-hour, Shearer, breaking free on to a fortuitous bounce, had only Perez to beat. All he could manage was to rap the ball again the advancing goalkeeper. The Toon Army's groan could be heard at Roker.

Shearer, in any reasonable team, is likely to score the goals to make them trophy contenders. The problems for Dalglish lie elsewhere. Injury to Howey and suspension for



Shearer: scoring return

Albert now emphasised the continuing inadequacy of Newcastle's rearguard, which would sometimes have difficulty defending a rice pudding.

Kevin Keegan who achieved so much but won nothing, was let down by his defenders, not to say his system. Dalglish is trying to change the system, which has not made him popular. He will certainly have to alter the personnel. Trophy-winning teams have to be able to play football from the back, and Newcastle have defenders unsure of passing precisely from A to B, never mind positional vulnerability often exposed by Sunderland.

Then there is the matter of midfield. Lee, replaced by Clark after half an hour, and Batty are essentially engine drivers, not signalmen. Guile tends to come from Ginola or Gillespie on the flanks. On Saturday, Sunderland's five in midfield were often quicker than their opponents in applying either brain or brawn, to the dismay of frustrated home supporters.

The inspiration for Sunderland was Waddle, as lackadaisical and infuriating as ever. He must have given psychological stress to innocent thousands during his career. Yet, he remains capable of turning a game with one touch.

The crowd booed this one-time hero vigorously from the kick-off, but that did not prevent him, in his first Tyne-Wear encounter at the age of 36, from being, in my opinion, the man of the match.

On either flank, he made Elliott or Barton look the second-division players they would have been 20 years ago, and it was his jinking crossfield run that opened the way for Gray to cut inside and beat Hislop from the edge of the penalty area.

Newcastle's wasted chances in the first half meant that spirited Sunderland might have gone further ahead before Shearer snatched his morsel as Elliott headed down Ginola's cross.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-4-2): S Hislop — W Barton, D Peacock, S Watson, R Elliott — K Gillespie, D Batty, R Lee (sub: L Clark, 26min), D Ginola — A Shearer, L Ferdinand (sub: F Asprilla, 46)

SUNDERLAND (4-5-1): L Perez — G Hall, L Howey, R Ord, D Kubicki — A Johnston (sub: D Kelly, 62), P Bracewell, C Waddle, K Ball, M Gray (sub: M Bridges, 73) — P Stewart (sub: N Quinn, 84)

Referee: P Durkin

Tide turns against Burns as Celtic seek to regroup

KEVIN McCARRA



Scottish commentary

Failure can be so meek. At full time on Saturday, the woe of the visiting team that had just drawn 1-1 with Raith Rovers did not seem extravagant. Even in the stands at Stark's Park, where the Celtic supporters, as a matter of protocol, yelled a little abuse at their unreliable team, there was no sign of insurrection.

Yet the past few weeks might have been planned as an incitement to rage. Celtic, through Paolo Di Canio, had taken the lead in the 88th minute, but could not summon up enough resilience to sustain them for a couple of minutes and conceded an equaliser to David Craig. With this result they have now taken just two points from their past four matches.

Accordingly, a Rangers side that is slightly less accident-prone requires only four points more to win the Bell's Scottish League premier division title for a ninth sucessive season. Celtic's performance has slumped just when the rewards on offer have soared. They lag nine points behind Rangers, but had an opportunity to cut the gap to two in the Old Firm game three weeks ago.

Celtic, of course, lost that afternoon. If the fans could not summon up anger on Saturday, it was because they have long since ceased to be surprised. Having witnessed defeats by clubs such as Motherwell and Kilmarnock, the disbelief that lies behind fury is no longer available to them.

In the absence of uninhibited emotion, there is discussion of the changes now required. Celtic may yet win the Tennents Scottish Cup, but disappointment will not be dispelled by that. Fergus McCann, the chief executive, has already confirmed that a review will take place in the close season.

This tends to be taken as a euphemism for the dismissal of the manager and some argue that Tommy Burns, as an act of compassion, should have his position clarified immediately. However, if Burns was to be told this week that he is to be dismissed, McCann would be accused of throwing the club into confusion when there is still the Cup to play for.

It is alleged that the speculation has sapped morale, but the side was just as capable of ramshackle performances when there was not a dispute to be heard. In any case, Celtic's appraisal will entail far more than a snap judgment of the manager and it would be conducted with greater efficiency in the serenity of summer.

Sifting the evidence will require time, for a serious defence of Burns can be mounted. In his first season, with the poor team he inherited, the 1995 Scottish Cup was won. In the second, no trophies were collected, but Celtic lost only one league match in the season, a record unmatched by any other side in Europe.

At that point, it seemed as if Celtic, having been rescued from bankruptcy by McCann in 1994, were making irresistible progress. In attempting to make the final adjustments, though, Burns has discovered how tormenting his job can be. For the most part, the £15.5 million spent on players has been used wisely, but a substantial talent can overbalance a side.

Di Canio has had a fine season and deserves no blame whatsoever, but his thrilling and eccentric gifts have never been wholly assimilated. Players who contributed to creating an effective pattern a year ago now seem to have become bystanders who merely admire the individualism of the Italian.

There have been disappointments of a more conventional nature for Burns as well. Alan Stubbs, signed from Bolton Wanderers for a club record fee of £3.5 million last summer, can produce pieces of adept play to demonstrate his abilities, but the centre half has proved surprisingly ineffective in his primary task of preventing opponents from scoring.

Celtic are right to be concerned over their personnel, their organisation and the lack of resolve shown at crucial moments. They may decide to alter the nature of Burns's job and bring in, above him, an experienced general manager from the Continent, but the deliberations will be those of a chastened club. Celtic have learnt that it is easy to improve, but very difficult to triumph.

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FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

ASTON VILLA (1) 3 EVERTON (1) 1
Milosevic 41
Staunton 50
Yorke 54
Unsworth 14
39,339

Aston Villa: *M Oakes, F Nelson, A Wright, U Ehiogu, S* Staunton (sub: D Hughes, 56min), G Southgate, T Taylor (sub: S Corica, 81min), M Draper, S Milosevic, D Yorke, G Farrelly
Everton: N Southall, C Thomsen, J Parkinson, D Unsworth (sub: R Dunne, 60min), D Watson, T Phelan, G Stuart, M Hottiger (sub: M Branch, 54min), D Ferguson, G Speed, *C Short*
Booked: Watson, Short.
Referee: J T Winter

CHELSEA (0) 0 ARSENAL (1) 3
28,182
Wright 22
Platt 53
Bergkamp 80

Chelsea: F Grodas, D Petrescu, S Clarke, B Vialli, C Burley, S Minto (sub: M Nicholls, 75min), E Johnsen (sub: A Myers, 46min), P Parker (sub: D Beasville, 46min), J Morris, G Zola, P Hughes.
Booked: *Hughes*
Arsenal: D Seaman, L Dixon, N Winterburn, P Vieira (sub: I Selley, 85min), S Bould, D Platt, I Wright (sub: N Anelka, 85min), D Bergkamp, M Keown, R Garde, S Hughes (sub: R Parlour, 77min)
Referee: I. R Dilkes.

MAN UTD (0) 2 DERBY (2) 3
Cantona 47
Solskjaer 76
55,243
Ward 29
Wanchope 35
Sturridge 75

Manchester United: P Schmeichel, G Neville (sub: D Irwin, 70min), G Pallister (sub: P Scholes, 65min), E Cantona, N Butt (sub: D G Solskjaer, 45min), A Cole, D Beckham, R Giggs, P Neville, R Keane, R Johnsen.
Booked: Giggs.
Derby County: M Poom, C Powell, D Powell, R van der Laan, D Sturridge, A Ward, P Trollope, J Lascelles, C Dailly, P Wanchope (sub: P Simpson, 65min), P McGrath
Booked: *D Powell.*
Referee: D R Ellaray.

NEWCASTLE (0) 1 SUNDERLAND (1) 1
Shearer 77
35,562
Gray 32

Newcastle United: S Hislop, W Barton, S Watson, D Peacock, R Elliott, K Gillespie, D Batty, B Lee (sub: L Clark, 29min), D Ginola, A Shearer, L Ferdinand (sub: F Asprilla, 45min).
Sunderland: L Perez, G Hall, L Howey, G Ord, D Kubicki, P Bracewell, K Ball, M Gray (sub: M Bridges, 69min), A Johnston (sub: D Kelly, 61min), P Stewart (sub: N Quinn, 82min), C Waddle.
Booked: Howey.
Referee: P Durkin.

NOTTM F (0) 1 SOUTHAMPTON (1) 3
Pearce 88 (pen)
29,134
Maguire 8
Evans 87, 89

Nottingham Forest: M Crossley, D Lyttle, S Pearce, C Cooper, S Chettle, D Phillips, S Gemmill, D Saunders, I Wson (sub: B Roy, 57min), P van Hooydonk, A I Haaland.
Booked: Van Hooijdonk.
Southampton: M Taylor, U van Gobbel, C Lundekvam, J Dodd, F Benali, R Slater, M Oakley (sub: A Neilson, 83min), M Le Tissier (sub: M Evans, 68min), E Ostenstad, E Berkovic (sub: N Maddison, 89min), J Magilton.
Booked: Benali, Magilton.
Referee: A B Wilkie.

TOTTENHAM (0) 1 WIMBLEDON (0) 0
Dozzell 81
32,654

Tottenham Hotspur: I Walker, D Austin, J Edinburgh, R Fox, A Nielsen, T Sherringham, J Dozzell, R Rosenthal, J Scales, S Campbell, A Sinton.
Wimbledon: N Sullivan, K Cunningham, A Kimble, V Jones, D Blackwell, O Leonhardsen, R Earle, D Holdsworth, M Gayle, C Perry, N Ardley (sub: J Goodman, 87min).
Referee: K W Burge.

GOALSCORERS

	Lge	Cup	Euro	Total
R Fowler (Liverpool)	17	6	6	29
I Wright (Arsenal)	20	5	2	27
F Ravanelli (Middlesbro)	14	13	0	27
A Shearer (Newcastle)	21	2	1	24
D Yorke (Aston Villa)	16	3	0	19
L Ferdinand (Newcastle)	13	0	4	18

Yesterday

LIVERPOOL (0) 1 COVENTRY (0) 2
Fowler 52
40,079
Whelan 65
Dublin 90

Liverpool: D James, J McAteer, B T Kvarme, D Matteo, S Harkness, S I Bjornebye (sub: P Berger, 79min), S McManaman, J Barnes, J Redknapp, S Collymore, R Fowler.
Booked: Collymore, Matteo.
Coventry City: S Ogrizovic, R Shaw, D Burrows, P Williams, K Richardson, E Jess (sub: M Hall, 57min), N Whelan, D Dublin, G McAllister, P Ndlovu, D Huckerby (sub: G Shaban, 83min).
Booked: Williams, Ndlovu, Whelan.
Referee: P Danson



Final

LEICESTER (0) 1 MIDDLESBRO (0) 1
Heskey 118
76,757
Ravanelli 95

(aet; 0-0 after 90mn)

Leicester: K Keller, S Grayson, M Whitlow (sub: M Robins, 105mn), S Walsh, M Izzet (sub: S Taylor, 108min), N Lennon, S Claridge, G Parker, E Heskey; *P Kamsark, S Prior.*
Booked: Kamaark, Prior, Heskey.
Middlesbrough: M Schwarzer, N Cox, N Pearson, Emerson, R Mustoe, M Beck, Juninho, F Ravanelli, C Fleming, G Festa, C Hignett.
Booked: Beck, Juninho, Cox.
Referee: M Bodenham
(Replay at Hillsborough on April 16, kick-off 7.45pm)

THIS WEEK'S FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated * *denotes all-ticket match*

TODAY

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Leeds v Blackburn (8.0).
VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Hednesford v Halifax (7.45)
BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: First division: Falkirk v Stirling.

TOMORROW

UEFA CUP: Semi-finals, first leg: CD Tenerife v FC Schalke (9.0); Internazionale v AS Monaco (7.45).
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Oldham v Birmingham (7.45) Second division: **Bristol Rovers v Millwall; Bury v Walsall (7.45); Chesterfield v Watford (7.45); Luton v Wycombe (7.45); Plymouth v Stockport (7.45); Wrexham v Rotherham; York v Peterborough.* Third division: Barnet v Scunthorpe (7.45); Cambridge United v Northampton (7.45); Darlington v Carlisle, Doncaster v Cardiff; Mansfield v Fulham (7.45); Wigan v Colchester (7.45).
VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Dover v Stevenage (7.45); Southport v Morecambe (7.45); Woking v Bromsgrove (7.45)

WEDNESDAY

EUROPEAN CUP: Semi-finals, first leg: Ajax v Juventus; Borussia Dortmund v Manchester United.
FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Coventry v Chelsea (7.45); Derby v Southampton (7.45); Everton v Leicester (7.45); Sheffield Wednesday v Tottenham (7.45); West Ham v Middlesbrough (7.45); Wimbledon v Aston Villa (7.45).
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Charlton v Huddersfield (7.45); Manchester City v Bolton (7.45); West Bromwich v Crystal Palace (7.45).

THURSDAY

EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS' CUP: Semi-finals, first leg: Barcelona v Fiorentina (0.0); Paris St Germain v Liverpool (7.45)

FRIDAY

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: Second division: Rotherham v Brentford (7.45). Third division: Colchester v Swansea (7.45); Mansfield v Carlisle (7.45)

SATURDAY

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated
FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Arsenal v Leicester; Blackburn v Manchester United; Derby v Aston Villa; Everton v Tottenham; Southampton v West Ham
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Bradford v Charlton, Birmingham v Huddersfield; Bolton v Oxford United; Norwich v Stoke; Port Vale v Oldham; Portsmouth v Tranmere; Queens Park Rangers v Grimsby; Reading v Wolverhampton; Sheffield United v Crystal Palace; Southend v Bradford; Swindon v Ipswich; West Bromwich v Manchester City Second division: Blackpool v Bury; Bournemouth v Gillingham; Crewe v Bristol Rovers; Millwall v Plymouth; Notts County v Wycombe; Peterborough v Preston; Shrewsbury v Wrexham; Stockport v Burnley; Walsall v Luton; Watford v York. Third division: **Brighton v Wigan; Cardiff v Chester; Exeter v Lincoln, Fulham v* Northampton; Hartlepool v Cambridge United; Leyton Orient v Doncaster; Rochdale v Darlington, Scarborough v Hereford; Scunthorpe v Hull; Torquay v Barnet
VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Bath v Rushden and Diamonds; Dover v Gateshead; Kettering v Morecambe; Northwich v Hednesford; *Telford v Halifax; Welling v Southport.*
BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Dunfermline v Hibernian; Hearts v Aberdeen; Motherwell v Rath First division: Airdrie v Dundee; East Fife v Greenock Morton; Partick v St Johnstone, St Mirren v Clydebank. Second division: *Ayr v* Stenhousemuir; Brechin v Livingston; Dumbarton v Clyde; Hamilton v Stranraer; Queen Of South v Berwick. Third division: Alloa v *Ross County; Arbroath v Montrose; Forfar v East Stirling;* Inverness CT v Albion; Queen's Park v Cowdenbeath.
TENNENTS SCOTTISH CUP: Semi-final: Celtic v Falkirk (at Ibrox Stadium, Rangers FC, 3.0).
SPALDING CHALLENGE CUP: Final, first leg: Macclesfield v Kidderminster
FA UMBRO TROPHY: Semi-finals, second leg: Gloucester (0) v Dagenham and Redbridge (0); **Stevenage (0) v Woking (0).*

SUNDAY

FA CUP: Semi-finals: **Middlesbrough v Chesterfield (at Old* Trafford); **Wimbledon v Chelsea (at Highbury Stadium, noon).*
FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Sheffield Wednesday v *Newcastle;* Sunderland v Liverpool.

OVERSEAS

ITALIAN LEAGUE: Fiorentina 0 Internazionale 0; Bologna 3 Reggiana 2; Cagliari 2 Roma 1; Lazio 2 Piacenza 0; Parma 3 Sampdoria 0; Perugia 1 Napoli 1; Udinese 2 Atalanta 0; Vicenza 0 Verona 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventus	25	13	10	2	34	15	49
Parma	26	13	7	6	30	20	46
Internazionale	26	10	12	4	36	25	42
Bologna	26	12	6	8	42	33	42
Sampdoria	26	11	7	8	46	39	40
Lazio	26	11	7	8	32	26	40
Milan	25	10	6	9	34	28	36
Roma	26	9	9	8	39	36	36
Fiorentina	26	8	11	7	33	28	35
Vicenza	26	9	8	9	35	32	35
Atalanta	26	9	8	9	35	34	35
Udinese	26	9	8	9	34	34	35
Napoli	26	7	12	7	29	33	33
Piacenza	26	5	12	9	20	32	27
Perugia	26	7	6	13	33	47	27
Cagliari	26	6	8	12	31	43	26
Verona	26	4	7	15	31	52	19
Reggiana	26	2	12	12	24	42	18

SPANISH LEAGUE: Oviedo 4 Atlético Madrid 1; Celta Vigo 3 Tenerife 1; Barcelona 4 Sporting Gijon 0; Valladolid 4 Valencia 1; Athletic Bilbao 0 Seville 0, Extremadura 3 Logrones 0; Hercules 2 Real Sociedad 1, Real Betis 2 Racing Santander 2; Rayo Vallecano 0 Español 1
Leading positions

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Madrid	31	21	9	1	65	25	72
Barcelona	32	20	6	6	80	38	66
Real Betis	32	19	9	4	70	34	64
Deportivo	31	16	12	3	47	22	60
Atlético Madrid	31	16	7	8	59	44	55

GERMAN LEAGUE: 1860 Munich 3 Borussia Mönchengladbach 0; Cologne 2 Duisburg 5; Borussia Dortmund 2 VfL Bochum 0; Fortuna Duesseldorf 2 FC St. Pauli Hamburg 0; Karlsruhe SC 0 FC Schalke 0; Werder Bremen 2 Armnia Bielefeld 1; Hamburg SV 0 Bayern Munich 3; Hansa Rostock 1 Bayer Leverkusen 0;
DUTCH LEAGUE: RKC Waalwijk 3 Twente Enschede 2; Volendam 0 Ajax Amsterdam 3; Utrecht 1 NEC Nijmegen 1; Feyenoord 0 Vaesse Arnhem 0; NAC Breda 2 PSV Eindhoven 2; Fortuna Sittard 0 Groningen 2; Heerenveen 3 Willem II Tilburg 1; Graafschap Doetinchem 0 Sparta Rotterdam 2.
FRENCH LEAGUE: Monaco 2 Lille 0, Paris Saint-Germain 1 Rennes 1; Cannes 1 Nice 1; Lyon 2 Auxerre 0; Le Havre 0 Metz 0; Montpellier 2 Bordeaux 0; Nantes 1 Marseilles 1; Nancy 2 Strasbourg 0;
PORTUGUESE LEAGUE: Benfica 1 Sporting 0;
BELGIAN LEAGUE: Cercle Brugge 0 Genk 4; Mouscron 2 Molenbeek 0; Lommel 2 Club Brugge 0; Mechelen 1 Charleroi 1; Lokeren 0 Harelbeke 0; Ghent 4 Lierse 5; Antwerp 1 Sint-Truiden 2; Aalst 5 Ekeren 0.
WORLD CUP: Asian zone: Group five: Indonesia 6 Cambodia 0 (at Jakarta). African zone: Group five: Sierra Leone 1 Ghana 1 (at Freetown)



Jocelyn Gourvennec, left, of Nantes, shields the ball from a Marseilles player during their French League match, a 1-1 draw, which left Nantes unbeaten in 25 matches

NON-LEAGUE AND NATIONAL LEAGUES

UNIBOND

PREMIER DIVISION: Accrington Stanley 5 Buxton 3; Barrow 1 Colwyn Bay 0; Boston 2 Marine 0; Emley 3 Blyth Spartans 2; Frickley 1 Bamber Bridge 0; Gainsborough 2 Winsford 0; Hyde 4 Spennymoor 0; Lancaster 0 Runcorn 2; Leek 1 Bishop Auckland 0; Witton 2 Chorley 2 Postponed: Knowsley v Gurseley.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leek Town	37	22	8	7	63	30	74
Barrow	41	21	11	9	67	43	74
Hyde Utd	38	18	15	5	85	42	69
Boston Utd	38	19	11	8	64	40	68
Emley	38	19	11	8	72	49	68
Gulseley	38	18	10	10	54	43	64
Blyth Spartans	38	18	9	11	60	42	63
Marine	38	17	12	9	47	35	63
Bishop A'land	36	16	13	7	64	36	61
Gainsborough	39	16	10	13	57	41	58
Accrington S	39	15	11	13	67	67	56
Runcorn	37	13	14	10	52	49	53
Chorley	41	14	9	18	61	62	51
Winsford Utd	41	11	14	16	46	53	47
Frickley	36	12	7	17	53	68	43
Knowsley	37	11	10	16	50	69	42
Spennymoor	36	10	10	16	50	51	40
Colwyn Bay	35	9	11	15	50	59	38
Lancaster	37	10	7	20	42	66	37
Bamber Bridge	37	9	6	22	47	82	33
Altrincm Town	38	6	12	20	41	75	30
Witton Alb	37	4	13	20	34	75	25
Buxton	36	4	10	22	30	75	22

FIRST DIVISION: Bradford P A 1 Workington 0 Congleton 2 Ashton United 7; Curzon Ashton 0 Worksop 2, Eastwood Town 0 Atherton L.R. 0; Great Harwood 2 Lincoln United 3, Leigh 4 Flixton 1; Matlock Town 2 Gretna 1, Netherfield 0 Harrogate Town 1; Stocksbridge PS 3 Farsley Celtic 4; Whitley Bay 1 Radcliffe 1.

DR.MARTENS

PREMIER DIVISION: Ashford 2 Cambridge City 2; Burton 2 Crawley 0; Gravesend and Northfleet 1 Baldock 2; Halesowen 1 Merthyr 2; Hastings 1 Dorchester 0; King's Lynn 0 Gresley 2; Nuneaton 1 Cheltenham 0; Salisbury 0 Stringbourne 1; Sudbury 1 Chelmsford 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Gresley Rovers	37	21	10	6	63	37	73
Cheltenham	37	19	8	10	70	42	65
Gloucester City	35	*18*	*8*	*9*	68	44	62
Kings Lynn	38	18	8	12	58	55	62
Halesowen	37	17	9	11	66	52	60
Nuneaton	36	17	8	11	52	41	59
Burton Albion	37	16	9	12	64	51	57
Merthyr	37	16	8	13	62	54	56
Worcester City	38	14	14	10	50	43	56
Gravesend & N	38	16	6	16	61	64	54
Stringbourne	36	15	7	14	68	60	52
Sudbury Tn	34	15	6	13	66	55	51
Salisbury	34	12	12	10	46	48	48
Atherstone	36	12	12	12	40	43	48
Dorchester	34	13	6	15	56	53	45
Hastings	35	9	13	13	41	54	40
Baldock Tn	37	10	7	20	45	81	37
Cambridge C	36	8	11	17	47	59	35
Newport AFC	36	8	10	18	37	56	34
Ashford Town	35	6	15	14	40	70	33
Crawley Town	35	8	8	19	41	64	32
Chelmsford	36	8	11	19	43	61	29

MIDLAND DIVISION: Bilston 4 Evesham 0, Grantham 3 Hinckley Town 0; Ilkeston 1 Blackwell 1, Raunds 1 R C Warwick 0; Redditch 2 Moor Green 3; Shepshed Dynamo 0 Paget 0; Solihull Boro 5 Dudley Town 1; Stafford 0 Tamworth 5; Sutton Coldfield Town 1 Stourbridge 4; V.S Rugby 0 Rothwell 2 Southern division: Bashley 0 Clevedon 1; Buckingham Town 1 Dartford 1; Erith and Belvedere 2 Havant 3; Fareham 0 Cirencester 0; Forest Green 2 Newport (IoW) 1, Margate 3 Fleet 0; Tonbridge Angels 1 Witney 1; Trowbridge 2 Cinderford 0; Weston-super-Mare 0 St Leonards 2; Weymouth 5 Waterlooville 0, Yate 1 Fisher 1

ICIS

PREMIER DIVISION: Aylesbury 0 Purfleet 2; Boreham Wood 1 Enfield 1; Bromley 1 Heybridge Swifts 1; Carshalton 0 Hendon 2; Grays 1 Dulwich 1; Harrow 0 St Albans 2; Hitchin 3 Yeading 1; Kingstonian 4 Oxford City 1; Staines 2 Sutton United 3; Yeovil 1 Bishop's Stortford 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yeovil	35	25	7	3	63	26	82
Enfield	35	23	10	2	75	26	79
Sutton Utd	34	16	11	7	75	55	59
Purfleet	38	16	10	12	61	55	58
Yeading	35	15	12	8	51	38	57
St Albans	35	16	8	11	60	48	56
Aylesbury	35	15	9	11	53	45	54
Dulwich	36	14	11	11	55	48	53
Kingstonian	38	15	7	16	73	71	52
Heybridge	35	13	11	11	55	57	50
Oxford City	35	14	8	13	59	64	50
Dag & Red	33	13	9	11	43	33	48
Hitchin	36	14	5	17	58	60	47
Boreham W	34	12	9	13	44	44	45
Carshalton	38	12	9	17	47	55	45
Bromley	36	12	8	16	57	58	44
Harrow B	37	9	12	16	48	57	39
Bishop's S'ford	36	9	10	17	35	55	37
Hendon	36	8	12	16	40	54	36
Staines	35	8	7	20	41	59	31
Grays	34	7	8	19	35	61	29
Chertsey Town	36	6	5	25	31	80	23

FIRST DIVISION: Basingstoke 2 Billericay 2, Berkhamsted 1 Walton and Hersham 1, Canvey Island 1 Whyteleafe 4; Croydon 2 *Abingdon Town 0; Maidenhead United 1* Uxbridge 0, Marlow 1 Barton 1, Molesey 0 Chesham 1; Thame 1 Bognor Regis 1; Tooting and Mitcham 0 Aldershot Town 1; Wokingham 2 Leyton Pennant 3; Worthing 0 Hampton 3 Second division: Banstead 1 Edgware 2, Barking 2 Hemel Hempstead 1; Bedford Town 0 Horsham 1; Bracknell 4 Ware 3, Chalfont St Peter 2 Witham 0; Collier Row and Romford 4 Leighton 1; Dorking 0 Tilbury 2; Metropolitan Police 2 Hungerford 3; Wembley 1 Egham 0; Windsor and Eton 1 Leatherhead 4; Wivenhoe 0 Cheshunt 1 Third division: Aveley 1 Braintree 2; East Thurrock 0 Northwood 0 Flackwell Heath 5 Tring 0; Hertford 3 Canvey Island 0; Hornchurch 3 Salisbury 0 Lewes 3 Clapton 1; Wealdstone 0 Harlow 2; Wingate and Finchley 2 Epsom and Ewell 2.
ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Burnham Ramblers 0 Great Wakering 1; East Ham 0 Brentwood 1, Hullbridge Sports 0 Ford United 2, Saffron Walden 0 Ilford 0; Southend Manor 0 Stansted 1
LONDON SPARTAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Barkingside 2 Waltham Abbey 0, Cockfosters 6 Burnsdown 2; Harwell 1 Hillingdon Boro 1; Islington St Marys 0 Beaconsfield SYCOB 0; Rulslip Manor 0 Croydon 2; Woodford 3 Amersham 1.
COURAGE COMBINED COUNTIES: Premier division: Ashford 4 Reading 1; Ash 3 Godalming and Guildford 1; Chipstead 0 Corinthian Casuals 2; Cobham 0 Westfield 0, Cove 1 Cranleigh 0; Hartley Wintney 1 Feltham 2; Raynes Park Vale 1 Bedfont 2; Viking Sports 4 Sandhurst 1; Walton Casuals 4 Nothome 0.
MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS: Premier division: Biggleswade 1 Potters Bar 5; Brache Sparta 3 Langford 0; Hoddesdon 0 Arlesey 0; Letchworth 1 Bedford 1; London Colney 2 Buckingham Athletic 0; Milton Keynes 2 Harpenden 0; Toddington 3 Welwyn Garden 2.
SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Barnstaple Town 1 Odd Down Athletic 1, Bristol Manor Farm 1 Backwell United 1; Chippenham Town 1 Bridport 3; Mangotsfield United 4 Bideford Town 2; Paulton Rovers 1 Bishopton 0; Taunton Town 0 Bridgwater Town 1, Tiverton Town 3 Calne Town 2
JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bury Town 3 Lowestoft 1, Felixstowe P and T 4 Wisbech 1; Great Yarmouth 0 March 5; Soham 2 Woodbridge 3; Tiptree 2 Diss 0; Warboys 2 Harwich and Parkeston 1; Wroxham 1 Stowmarket 2.
JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Lymington 1 Totton 0; Andover 2 Gosport 2; B.A.T. 1 Downton 1; Bemerton Heath Harl 2 Whitchurch 0; Christchurch 0 Aerostructures 2; Cowes Sports 7 Bournemouth 1, Eastleigh 0 Brockenhurst 1; Portsmouth R.N 2 Petersfield 2; Thatcham 3 East Cowes 2; Wimborne town 2 Romsey 1.
UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Burgess Hill 5 Portfield 0; Eastbourne Town 1 Southwick 0; Horsham Y M C A 2 Hassocks 1; Langney Sports 0 Selsey 1; Mile Oak 2 Oakwood 1; Pagham 0 Peacehaven and Telscombe 1; Ringmer 3 Arundel 1; Shoreham 4 Hailsham 2, Three Bridges 0 Whitehawk 1
WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Canterbury 2 Lordswood 0; Chatham 1 Slade Green 2; Cray 0 Ramsgate 1; Crockenhill 1 Thamesmead 0; Greenwich 3 Folkestone Invicta 4; Herne Bay 2 Sheppey 2; Hythe 5 Deal 0; Tunbridge Wells 0 Furness 2; Whitstable 4 Corinthian 0; Woolwich 1 Beckenham 4
HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: *Burnham 4 Fairford 0; Endsleigh 3 Bicester* 1; Lambourn Sports 0 Abingdon United 3; North Leigh 4 Banbury 0; Swindon Supermarine 1 Banbury 0; Tuffley 1 Almondsbury 0; Wantage 0 Brackley 5
UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bourne 2 Potton 3; Cogenhoe 2 Boston 2, Desborough 0 Eynesbury 3; Holbeach 0 Long Buckby 0; Newport Pagnell 1 Stotfold 3; Spalding 5 Wootton 2; Wellingborough 1 Stamford 4 Postponed: N.Spencer v Kempston; S and L Corby v St Neots.
INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE: Blakenall 2 Pershore 1; Bridgnorth 2 Halesowen Harriers 1; Chasetown 2 Bilsnich 1; Hinckley Athletic 3 Stapenhill 1; Knypersley 1 Barwell 1; Rocester 1 Rushall Olympic 0; Shifnal 2 Sandwell 0; Stratford 2 Boldmere St Michaels 0; West Midlands Police 0 Oldbury 0; Wednesfield 0 Polesll Villa 2.
ENGLEIGH INSURANCE MIDLAND COMBINATION: *Premier division:* Alvechurch 1 Handsworth Trimmers 3; Bilsdale Swifts 0 Wellesbourne 2; Coventry Sphinx 0 Coleshill 1; David Lloyd 0 West Midland Fire Service 0; Highgate 3 Worcester 2; Kenilworth 3 Shirley 2; Massey Ferguson 2 Kings Heath 1; Southam 1 Knowle 2; Studley Bkl 2 Mak Ka 3.
BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Bilsawich 3 Tividale 1; Brierley Hill 1 Lye 5; Dudley 4 Malvern 2; NB Top 0 Westfields 1, Stourport 2 Ludlow 0; Wolverhampton Casuals 1 Walsall Wood 0; Wednesfield 4 Cradley 1.
FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: *First division:* Bedlington 4 Easington 1, Chester-le-Street 4 Crook 3; Consett 0 Newcastle 1, Dunston Federation 1 R.T.M. Newcastle 3; Gateshead 2 Shildon 4, Murton 4 South Shields 0; Tow Law 3 Billingham Synthonia 2; West Auckland 1 Durham 2; Whitby 5 Whickham 0.
NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Armthorpe Welfare 1 Bolsover Town 1; Arnold Town 0 Pontefract Colts 0; Bingo Town 2 Sheffield 0; Holsem 2 Pickering Town 1; Hatfield Main 1 Selby Town 1; Liversedge 1 Hucknall Town 4; Maltby M W 1 Denaby United 3; North Ferriby United 4 Glasshoughton Welfare 0; Ossett Albion 3 Thackley 0; Ossett Town 4 Ashfield United 0
NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Burscough 1 Trafford 1; Chadderton 4 Nantwich 0; Clitheroe 4 Holker Old Boys 1; Kidsgrove 1 Eastwood Hanley 1; Mossley 1 Blackpool Rovers 3; Penrith 1 Vauxhall G M 0; Rossendale 1 Newcastle Town 3; St Helens 1 Glossop North End 2; Salford 2 Atherton Collieries 1.
SOUTH EAST COUNTIES: First division: Charlton 0 West Ham 2, Millwall 3 Leyton Orient 3, Ponsmouth 2 Cambridge 1; Queens Park Rangers 3 Fulham 0, Tottenham 0 Norwich 0; Watford 2 Chelsea 1. Second division: Barnet 1 Oxford 2; Bournemouth 0 Tottenham 2; Brentford 0 Southampton 1; Brighton 2 Luton 3; Bristol City 1 Colchester 4; Bristol Rovers 1 Reading 2; Crystal Palace 1 Wimbledon 0
SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: First division: Civil Service 1 O Parmienans 2; Crouch End Vampires 1 South Bank 0; Norsemen 0 Polytechnic 0; O Actonians 1 Carshalton 0; West Wickham 0 East Barnet OG 0.
OLD BOYS' LEAGUE: Premier division: Clapham OX 1 Glyn OB 2, Latymer OB 2 O Hamptonians 2, O Meadonians 0 O Aloysians 1; O Vaughanians 1 O Tentonians 2.
SOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE: Senior one: Nottsborough 4 Ulysses 1; St Mary's College 1 Parkfield 1; Southgate County 3 Wtan 1; Wandsworth Borough 0 O Finchleians 3
ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Arthur Dunn Cup: Final: Foresters 3 Salopians 1 Premier division: Cholmeleians 2 Reptonians 1, Lancing 5 Wideans 1.
FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE: National division: Everton 1 Wembley 3.
FA WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Northern division: Garswood St Helens 0 Huddersfield 1; Stourport 1 Bradford 6 Southern division: Berkhamsted 3 Leyton Orient 1, Three Bridges 1 Langford 1

NATIONAL

GILBERT LEAGUE OF WALES: Bangor City 2 Holywell 1, Barry 3 Newtown 1; Briton Ferry 1 Aberyswyth 3; Caernarfon 0 Inter Cable-Tel 1, Carmarthen Town 1 Connah's Quay 0; Cwmbran Town 5 Ton Pentre 1, Oswestry Town 1 Rhyl 4; Flint Town 1 Llansantfraed 1; Porthmadog 1 Caersws 3; Welshpool 0 Ebbw Vale 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barry Town	33	26	6	1	102	22	84
Inter Cable-Tel	34	23	5	6	67	24	74
Ebbw Vale	34	20	7	7	73	34	67
Conwy	36	19	8	9	59	35	65
Caernarfon T	34	19	8	7	67	53	65
Cwmbran	36	*18*	*7*	*10*	66	51	61
Newtown	34	18	5	11	61	40	59
Bangor City	34	17	5	12	69	45	56
Llansantfraed	34	15	11	8	59	47	56
Porthmadog	35	15	7	13	51	52	52
Connah's Q	36	14	7	15	54	56	49
Caersws Bay	35	10	10	15	54	62	40
Flint Town	34	11	6	17	44	59	39
Aberystwyth	35	10	7	18	53	72	37
Carmarthen T	36	10	7	19	37	72	37
Ton Pentre	34	11	2	21	49	71	35
Caersws	34	9	7	18	43	69	34
Welshpool	34	7	8	19	37	70	29
Holywell	33	7	7	19	45	64	28
Rhyl	33	7	7	19	42	61	28
Briton Ferry	33	*5*	*1*	*27*	32	98	16

FAI HARP NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Home Farm 2 UCD 3; St Patrick's Ath 2 Finn Harps 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dorry City	28	17	8	3	49	21	59
Shelbourne	27	14	7	6	47	26	49
Bohemians	28	13	8	7	36	27	47
Cork City	29	13	7	9	30	23	46
St Patricks Ath	29	10	14	5	36	27	44
Sligo Rovers	29	11	9	9	36	35	42
UCD	29	11	6	12	30	35	39
Shamrock Rvs	28	9	9	10

FOOTBALL: VICTORY OVER QPR CONFIRMS WANDERERS' RETURN TO PREMIERSHIP AFTER ONE-YEAR ABSENCE

Lofty ambitions realised on Bolton's big day

Mark Hodkinson on a joyous afternoon of sportsmanship and wild celebrations

ROOTED to the bottom of the FA Carling Premiership, 21 defeats already endured, relegation inevitable, Bolton Wanderers played Chelsea exactly one year ago today. Ruud Gullit jogged lazily onto the Burnden Park pitch to warm up before the kick-off. As he approached the Burnden Terrace, the stand containing Bolton's most vociferous and partisan supporters, he was greeted by a spontaneous round of applause. Surprised, he tossed back his dreadlocks, raised his arm and acknowledged their generosity of spirit.

This was the England of the myth: a country of gentlemen where hearts were warm and sportsmanship intact after a season of wretched defeats. Magnanimity in defeat is a glorious quality and it is right and proper that it should be copiously rewarded.

A year on, a 2-1 victory against Queens Park Rangers secured Bolton's promotion from the first division of the Nationwide League on Saturday. They need just two points from their last five matches to become champions. It is a testimony to Bolton's magnificent season that they should celebrate promotion with a month of the campaign remaining. They have lost just four times in 41 league games and have scored three or more goals on 13 occasions.

The promotion party was everything, with the match a mere incidental, which was appropriate for a nondescript game. Television cameras roamed the club car park in search of a flat cap with a quote and the giant urn of tea in the press room was empty an hour before the kick-off.

As usual, the master of ceremonies was the club's mascot, Lofty the Lion. Sassy and spry, he has few peers in the modern game and his agents may face a busy close season deflecting offers from other clubs requiring his flamboyant touch. Watching a man pretending to be a lion pretending to be Freddie Mercury has a remarkably warming effect on a chilly, windy day in the North West.

Queens Park Rangers, who might themselves still secure a play-off place, did not succumb to the mood of levity and promptly scored an excellent goal. Morrow collected the ball a good distance from Bolton's penalty area and, within the blink of an eye, it was in the net. Once more the crowd was privy to Bolton's famous philanthropy. "A lovely goal by QPR, scored by No 6, Morrow," the match announcer said. There was enthusiasm in his voice, as if seeing this piece of skill — by a member of the visiting team — had actually given him pleasure.

Wembley stalemate 27
Liverpool stunned 29

Bolton equalised before half-time when Blake's shot was parried and Fairclough stabbed home from close range. The party was back on and Lofty was already dancing on the touchline ready for his interval histrionics. The win, and promotion, were confirmed when McGinlay deflected a shot by Thompson beyond Sommer.

At the final whistle, not a single Bolton supporter ran onto the pitch and this allowed the players and fans to celebrate unfettered. Thompson, sporting a T-shirt reading "We're up and we know we are", danced wildly with Blake, while Taggart careered into Lofty and wrestled him to the ground. This was not a reticent, self-conscious affair, it was 11 men gone mad, not to mention the substitutes, management team, squad players — paraded in their suits — and pretty much the whole town.

The sun stubbornly refused to shine. A thick buttress of cloud remained steadfast above the floodlights and the wind whistled through the old stadium. Anything else would have been unbecoming: Bolton had to win promotion in Bolton weather.

Lofty joined in the lap of honour and staggered as he took pretend sips from bottles of champagne. "I've never seen a lion drunk before," the announcer said before revealing that Manchester United had lost to Derby County. "Oh, our cup spilleth over," he added quickly.

Queens Park Rangers played their part admirably and adopted the sportsmanship of their hosts. Colin Todd, the Bolton manager, was congratulated by every Rangers player as they left the pitch and a group of about 40 QPR supporters remained on the terraces to witness the lap of honour. They applauded warmly as the Bolton players passed. At such moments, the world can seem a better place.

Afterwards, it seemed churlish to ask, but someone had to, and Todd already had an answer prepared. Did he feel that Bolton were better equipped to survive in the Premiership than they had been last time? "Let's enjoy the moment," Todd replied. "We'll talk about that later." It was said without a hint of rancour. Bolton truly, madly, deeply enjoyed their moment. Tomorrow can wait.

BOLTON WANDERERS (4-4-2): K Branagan — S McAnespie, C Fairclough, G Taggart, B Small — J Pollock (sub: M Johansen, 76min), P Frandsen (sub: J Sheridan, 86), A Thompson, S Sellars — J McGinlay, N Blake (sub: M Paatelainen, 88)

QUEENS PARK RANGERS (3-1-4-2): J Sommer — S Yates, D Maddix, S Morrow — S Barker (sub: N Quashi, 60) — A Impey, G Peacock, P Murray, R Brevett — D Dichio (sub: S Slade, 60), J Spencer.

Referee: G Frankland



The party begins as McGinlay acclaims the goal that beat QPR. Photograph: Lawrence Griffiths / Allsport

Gloucester in driving seat after goalless stalemate

Dagenham and R 0
Gloucester City 0

BY WALTER GAMMIE

THE FA Umbro Trophy semi-finalists managed only one goal between them on Saturday — Robin Taylor's first-minute strike at Kingfield that Woking will take with them to Stevenage Borough for the second leg of their all-Vauxhall Conference tie on Saturday.

Goals never looked like coming at Dagenham's Victoria Ground as an unruly wind played havoc with the best laid footballing plans. Suffice it to say that, as the subdued home supporters filed out, it was Gloucester's noisy band in the 2,077 crowd that stayed to cheer the applause of thanks from Leroy Rosenoir and his team.

Their good humour was improved by a Dr Martens League scoreline, gleaned from local radio and delivered over the public address, after a friendly twist of the arm from Keith Gardner, the visitors' chairman, of "Nuneaton Borough 1 Cheltenham Town 0" that improved Gloucester's Conference ambitions.

Gloucester produced the one moment that taxed a goalkeeper when Watkins met a free kick by McGrath from the touchline with a firm header that Gothard tipped over the bar. Dagenham, of the Icis League, could, otherwise, take comfort from the rock-solid barrier supplied by the experienced Creaser and Conner at the heart of their defence.

In well-matched teams, effectively mixing old heads with young legs, the first-half duel between Pratt and Burns, the Gloucester captain, was outstanding. Honours were even, but it was Pratt, son of a famous Tottenham Hotspur father, teed up by Naylor, nephew of a famous Tottenham father, who delivered Dagenham's best chance.

Rogers, who had initiated the sweeping crossfield move with Double, arrived in time to meet Pratt's perfect cross in front of a yawning goal, but somehow failed to connect.

The place in the final at Wembley on May 18 remains well and truly up for grabs.

DAGENHAM AND REDBRIDGE (3-5-2): P Gothard — D Culverhouse, S Conner, G Creaser — D Pratt, D Parratt, L Double, J Broom, C Davidson (sub: V John, 87min) — A Rogers, C Naylor (sub: J Stimson, 80).
GLOUCESTER CITY (4-4-2): D Coles — G Thorne, S Fergusson, G Kemp, J McGrath — J Holloway, S Cooper, D Webb, C Burns — D Holmes (sub: A Mings, 13), D Watkins
Referee: G Barber.

Big bad Wolves are still knocking at Premiership door



McGhee: confident

Wolverhampton W 3
Norwich City 2

BY RICHARD HOBSON

THE season's biggest certainty was realised on Saturday when Bolton Wanderers confirmed their passage into the FA Carling Premiership. Quite who will join them is becoming harder to call by the week.

A theory that Wolverhampton Wanderers would romp away with the second automatic promotion slot in the Nationwide League first division once they edged ahead of Barnsley was thoroughly debunked when they took a single point from four games. Simultaneously, the Yorkshire club moved clear. Yet the capacity for any side in the first division to squander an opportunity cannot be underestimated. Success against Norwich City on Saturday took Wolves to within a point of Barnsley, who lost at home to Birmingham City. How many more twists and turns can the season absorb?

Mark McGhee, the Wolves manager, said: "I think the biggest hindrance to going up will be ourselves. At the start of the season I thought the goals from Bull, Goodman and Roberts would guarantee us promotion. It has not happened like that but, if we win four of our last five games, I think we will go up."

In reality, Wolves have relied on Bull as much as ever. Victory secured in his absence through suspension was all the more pleasing. Goodman produced what McGhee felt was his best performance for the club, while Roberts, standing in for Bull, scored the winning goal 12 minutes from the end of a capricious encounter.

Wolves went ahead in the nineteenth minute when Thomas followed in a shot from Goodman that Gunn had palmed into his path. Goodman created the second goal, too; create being the operative word. He appeared to have ridden a tackle from Bradshaw in the penalty area and if his eventual fall was not quite ten yards after the challenge, as suggested by Mike Walker, the Norwich manager, then Bradshaw still had good reason to fume as Curle converted the penalty with 35 minutes gone.

The visitors deserved better for their adventurous approach and went level courtesy of two goals in the three minutes before half-time. Wolves' defensive failings were exposed when Eadie was allowed to head a cross from Sutch towards the unmarked Broughton, who volleyed in from four yards at the far post.

It does not take much for panic to set in at Molineux, in the stands or on the pitch. Each stray pass was met with a loud groan, until Kevin Lynch, the referee, became the focus for frustration. He judged that Roberts had pushed Newman, awarding a second dubious penalty of the afternoon. Adams sent Stowell the wrong way. The break could not have been more timely.

Thereafter, the pace of Gilkes troubled Norwich. Equally, Eadie, the best prospect in the division, threatened when the home team were caught surging forward. Both sides needed more than a draw. Twice, Roberts miscued from close range, but he sealed victory at the third attempt when he slid in to meet a cross from Ferguson on the left.

WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS (4-4-2): M Stowell — J Smith, K Curle, M Atkins, S Froggatt — G Thomas, S Osborn (sub: C Robinson, 40min), D Ferguson, M Gilkes — D Goodman, I Roberts
NORWICH CITY (3-4-1-2): B Gunn — C Bradshaw, M Jackson, R Newman — N Adams, I Crook (sub: D Mills, 78), M Milligan, D Sutch — D Eadie — D Broughton, R Fleck (sub: S Carey, 66).
Referee: K Lynch.

Barcelona cruise to victory

BARCELONA boosted their hopes of taking Spain's second European Champions' League place yesterday when they brushed aside Sporting Gijón 4-0 to move two points clear of third-placed Real Betis, who could only draw 2-2 at home to Racing Santander.

Barcelona, who are now within six points of the leaders, Real Madrid, who face Compostela today, cruised to victory with goals from Ivan de la Pena, Juan Pizzi and the Brazilians, Giovanni and Ronaldo.

Español pulled out of the danger zone with a 1-0 win away to their fellow strugglers, Rayo Vallecano, while Valencia crashed 4-1 away to Valladolid, prompting speculation that Jorge Valdano, their coach, could be sacked.

Parma moved closer towards a place in the European Cup for the first time, with a 3-0 home win over Sampdoria. Two goals by Hernan Crespo and one from his fellow Argentine, Nestor Sensini, tightened Parma's grip on second place in Serie A and automatic entry into the Champions' League next season.

Carlo Ancelotti's side enjoy a four-point lead over third-placed Bologna, 3-2 winners at home to Reggiana, and Internazionale, who were held to a scoreless draw at Fiorentina. The win could breathe new life into a title race that has been dominated by Juventus. Cagliari gained vital points in their battle against relegation with a 2-1 win over Roma.

Bournemouth left to take poor view of struggle for survival

Peterborough United 3
Bournemouth 1

BY KEITH PIKE

THIS game very nearly did not take place at all and those who saw it would be stretching a point to say that a thing of great natural beauty had been saved for the nation. But when the local radio man from Bournemouth conducts his pre-match interview with the club's receiver, and when the home team still rates £3 at the turnstile almost as important as three points on the pitch, it is clear that sporting excellence has long since given way to survival as the Saturday raison d'être.

At the turn of the year both these clubs were in crisis, but Peterborough (debts £2.8 million, long-term prospects bleak) found their salvation in a local philanthropist with deep-pan pockets who had made his dough from the pizza business. Bournemouth (debts £4.8 million, long-term prospects even bleaker) may yet be saved by the refusal of a handful of supporters to accept closure as inevitable and the discovery of a hitherto undetected passion for football in Dorset.

Football on the brink, or more false alarms? It is not the latter, according to Barry Fry, and he should know — he has twice mortgaged his house to help his club to stave off the creditors. Managing in the football basement when Aldershot and Maidstone United went out of business five years ago, Fry believes that the grass roots of the game could yet wither under the strongest pesticide of all: the banks.

"Most clubs are into the banks for vast sums of money," the Peterborough manager said, after watching his side win the battle of two of the Nationwide League second division's endangered species. "If one bank closes one football club, then that bank will close a dozen or 15



Fry: threat from banks

overnight, and that is the frightening thing.

"I know the Premiership is getting bigger and richer, but the beauty of our game is that we have four divisions and a healthy [Vauxhall] Conference. We won't improve the game if half the clubs close and the rest go part-time, and there are 75 per cent of clubs in the bottom two divisions who are one bank manager's phone call away from trouble, maybe half the first division as well. It's horrific."

Fry's vote for manager of the year, therefore, goes not to Alex Ferguson and his ilk, but to Mel Machin, who has conjured a run of six wins and five draws in 14 games while Bournemouth have been on the brink of oblivion. "He has been brilliant, a god, to keep the pressure off the players and get those results," Fry said. "I am a football-lover and I am sure I speak for everybody in the country when I say I am delighted the club looks like being rescued."

Nothing could save Bournemouth on Saturday in a game so wretched — in the first half at least — that killing off lower-division football clubs suddenly seemed a worthwhile ambition. Rawlinson equalised with the goal of the game from 30 yards after Clark had given Peterborough a 48th-minute lead, but two goals in three minutes, from DeSouza and Otto, prolonged United's unlikely fight against relegation.

Peterborough's last three games are against the top three sides in the division. Bournemouth, whose trustees are confident that they will survive yet another winding-up order on May 15, perhaps have more reason for short-term optimism.

PETERBOROUGH UNITED (4-4-2): B Gnemani — D Linton, A Edwards, M Bodley, S Clark — S Houghton (sub: L Donowa, 87min), M Williams, D Payne, R Otto — M Carruthers (sub: C Cleaver, 87). M DeSouza
BOURNEMOUTH (4-4-2): J Glass — N Young, I Cox, M Holland, E Howe (sub: J Brissett, 80) — J Bailey, M Rawlinson, R Boardsmore, S Robinson (sub: L Cotterill, 80) — D Town, R Murray (sub: J Hayter, 80).
Referee: E Lomas.

Molby's warning falls on deaf ears

Lincoln City 4
Swansea City 0

BY PAT GIBSON

SWANSEA City could have been forgiven if they had popped into the great cathedral on the hill before they set off back to Wales on Saturday night and offered a quiet prayer that they do not have to meet Lincoln City in the play-offs for promotion from the Nationwide League third division.

It must have seemed like an awful possibility, after a run of four wins and a draw had been brought to a shuddering halt by a team playing a kind of football that is in stark contrast to the philosophy preached by Jan Molby, their player-manager.

Lincoln follow the gospel according to John Beck, that unashamed proponent of the fast, robust, direct style, and on a day made for kite flying and aerial bombardment, they simply overpowered Swansea to move within two points of the play-off places.

Swansea were unable to say that they had not been warned. Molby had told his players precisely what to expect and instructed them not to try to take Lincoln on at their own game, but his words had fallen on deaf ears.

"The most important thing when you are playing against teams like this is to get the ball down and knock it about," Molby said, "but we did not do that. We played three centre backs to deal with their long balls, but every time one of them won it, they just kicked it as far as they could."

The pattern was set from the start. Lincoln immediately rained balls into the Swansea penalty area and the tactic paid off in the eighteenth minute. O'Leary struggled to control a bouncing ball after one of Barnett's innumerable long throw-ins and Alcide got a boot in to loop it over Freestone and into the net.

For a while it looked as though Swansea might be able to play their way back into the game, but they were doomed when they conceded a penalty in the 56th minute. Edwards brought down Ainsworth, who got up to shoot fiercely past Freestone.

Six minutes later Stant forced the ball in after Freestone had saved from Alcide and Brown had hit the underside of the bar, and then Ainsworth made the best goal of the lot in the 74th minute when he tore down the right and put over a low cross that Stant flicked in.

Beck was understandably jubilant. "We outfought them, we out-thought them and we outplayed them," he said. Molby remained philosophical. "There is no right way or wrong way of playing football," he said. "John Beck plays his way, I play a different way."

LINCOLN CITY (3-5-2): J Vaughan — J Barnett, J Robertson, K Austin — G Ainsworth, T Dennis, S Holmes, W Sterling (sub: C Stones, 71min), C Alcide — S Brown, P Stant.
SWANSEA CITY (5-3-2): R Freestone — J Price, K O'Leary (sub: L Jenkins, 59), S Jones, C Edwards, J Moreira — J Coates, J Molby, K Ampadu — D Penney, D Thomas
Referee: T West.



RUGBY UNION: WASPS SNATCH VITAL POINT FROM CHAMPIONS TO KEEP TITLE AMBITIONS ON COURSE

Rees stings Bath with last-minute conversion

Wasps	25
Bath	25

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

JEREMY GUSCOTT, the sole British Lion from Bath, did everything that one man could possibly do to win this Courage Clubs Championship match at Loftus Road yesterday. Yet, in the final seconds, Gareth Rees kicked an angled conversion that left Wasps with a share of the spoils.

If there was a winner yesterday, it was Leicester, who edged closer to Wasps, the leaders, by virtue of the point dropped by the London club and the two games they have in hand. Yet Leicester will count no chickens: tomorrow they visit Kingsholm to play Gloucester and, on Saturday, they visit the Recreation Ground, Bath.

"The point keeps us on track," Rob Smith, the Wasps coach, said. "Leicester have a hard schedule of midweek games, we have to focus ourselves. We didn't perform up to our standard yet we have come away with a point.

"Now we have regular Saturday games and we have to get back up to standard. Our first job is to win our remaining four games."

Bath left London intensely disappointed. Guscott's first try had edged them ahead 11-9 at the interval, the centre sent Adebayo over for the second and the same combination accounted for Guscott's third, from all of 70 metres, which looked to have won the match with five minutes remaining.

Yet Rees kept Wasps in touch. Five penalty goals were embellished by a conversion from a wide angle after King finally cracked the Bath defence in the 83rd minute of the game. Such is the virtue of experience, yet Rees is not only a scoring machine; his attacking vision as the game slipped away proved equally significant for Wasps as they showed the depth of character that now exists in their team.

They could even argue — though they did not — that Bath scored their first try with 16 men on the field. There was a tacit assumption by Wasps that Catt would kick at goal from a penalty awarded 20 metres from the posts and Harrison, a Bath replacement, was running on with the kicking tee as Catt tapped to himself and sent Guscott to the line with Wasps gathered underneath their own posts.

Bath's alertness was in evidence again when Adebayo crossed for the second try. Catt suffered a cut mouth during the build-up and Callard, a specialist goal-kicker, came smartly off the bench as a blood replacement to kick the tricky conversion, then promptly resumed his place on the touchline. The regulations have nothing to say on this subject and Bath's tactical awareness is to their credit.

The second half was riddled with such controversy. Wasps believed that Guscott's kick behind their defence had hit the touchline before Adebayo kicked on and Guscott gathered to score at the posts.

Even at the end, Bath looked to have kept their gritty opponents at arm's length. Henderson was hurled into the corner and, though Wasps won the lineout, Dallaglio was held up and Bath awarded the scrum on their own line. The clearance would have been all but sufficient, but Hilton was judged to have dropped the front row and Wasps took advantage of the lifeline: King and White were held on the initial thrust from the tapped penalty but, from the maul, King slipped over on the short side.

It was such a change of complexion from the opening quarter of a match played in front of 10,500 supporters, who imparted a genuine atmosphere to the occasion. Ten minutes of high-speed, high quality rugby produced Rees's first penalty, but then the match lapsed into error from which it did not recover.

Catt's two penalties gave Bath the lead; King levelled with a dropped goal and Rees wrenched the lead back for Wasps before Guscott's first *tour de force*. The ambitions of both sides never faltered but the accuracy of their play did. and Bath owed a huge debt to Lyle for recycling sufficient ball to allow them to sustain their positive play.

Adebayo increased Bath's lead, but three successive penalties from Rees put Wasps back on level terms with eight minutes remaining. Two seasons ago, both sides might have settled for the draw, but now such thoughts were conspicuous by their absence: Guscott scored at one end, but then could only sit, disconsolate, on the hoardings at the other as Rees kicked the conversion to draw the match.

SCORERS: Wasps: Try: King. Conversion: Rees. Penalty goals: Rees (5). Dropped goal: King. Bath: Tries: Guscott (2), Adebayo. Conversions: Catt, Callard. Penalty goals: Catt (2)

WASPS: G Rees, S Rosser, N Greenstock, R Henderson, K Logan; A King, A Gomersall; D Molloy, S Mitchell, W Green, L Dallaglio, M Greenwood, A Reed, M White, C Sheasby. Mitchell replaced by K Dunn (56min); Sheasby replaced by P Scrivener (62); Green replaced by I Duriston (75)

BATH: M Perry; J Steightholme, P de Glanville, J Guscott, A Adebayo; M Catt, A Nicol; K Yates, F Mendez, J Mallett, R Webster, G Llanes, M Haag, N Thomas, D Lyle. Mallett replaced by D Hilton (69min); Llanes replaced by S Ojomoh (69); Perry replaced by J Callard (75)

Referee: C White (Gloucestershire).

CRAIG PRENTIS / ALLSPORT



De Glanville, the Bath captain, tries to keep Henderson at arm's length during the draw with Wasps yesterday

TOP FIVE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wasps	18	14	1	3	553	344	29
Leicester	16	13	0	3	489	240	26
Bath	17	11	1	5	592	324	23
Sale	16	10	1	5	440	325	21
Harlequins	18	10	0	6	591	329	20

Gala cup run comes to a juddering halt

Gala	20
Watsonians	59

By Mark Souster

TRADITIONS and family allegiance to town and club run deep in the Borders, none more so than at Gala where generation has followed generation into the rugby club.

Three Patersons, two nephews and the son of Duncan, the Scottish Rugby Union's convener of rugby, were in the squad, alongside two Changlengs and two Dalgleishs. It is a sign of the times, though, that the club has to rely on home-grown talent because there is little or no money to invest in players.

That is why a run in the cup is a lifeline to the likes of Gala, whose fortunes are in decline after relegation to the second division last season and a subsequent exodus of players. In the last round they surprised everybody by winning at Currie, but only in patches did they look capable of repeating that success yesterday.

In the opening minutes it looked as if Watsonians would walk away with this fifth-round tie of the SRU Tennents Cup, at Netherdale. Gala seemed in awe of the beaten finalists of last season and, after Duncan Hodge kicked a penalty goal from 40 metres in the second minute, Watsonians scored a try of simplicity. They worked a back-row move from a scrum in midfield and quick passing found Gordon Hannah in space. He cantered down the flank, drew the full back and provided Iain Sinclair with a try on a plate.

Then, as Watsonians are prone to and as they did in the cup final last year when squandering a 15-point lead, they lost concentration. A speculative kick by Boland, the scrum half, should have been taken comfortably by David Giles. The hapless full back, who looked frail under the high ball, missed it completely and Chris Dalgleish ran in unhindered from the 22.

Chris Paterson, Duncan Paterson's nephew, converted and, suddenly, self-belief coursed through Gala. Although their attacks were limited, the half backs kicked judiciously for territorial gain, but promising positions were squandered by erratic throwing in at the lineout by Thomson, who had difficulty finding his jumpers.

Giles was identified as a weak link and was repeatedly peppered with high balls by Paterson, not all of which he dealt with confidently. One towering effort landed on the Watsonians' line, Giles dropped it and only just recovered to prevent a try.

Watsonians regathered and with Garry and Mayer punching holes in the flimsy Gala defence, which also struggled around the fringes, Watsonians threatened to add to their try count. However, all they managed was two further penalties by Hodge in the tenth and fourteenth minutes, with Paterson, the stand-off half, replying for Gala. That made the score 10-14 and when Paterson hit an upright with another penalty attempt after 34 minutes, Gala's resistance was effectively over. Watsonians added another try by Mayer, converted by Hodge, and they could breathe more easily.

The second half was embarrassingly one-sided. Watsonians scored five tries in the third quarter, through White, Burns, Henderson, Kerr and Giles, who looked far more impressive in attack and ran in from 50 metres. Fitzgerald, the prop, then added another before Swan barged his way over for Gala.

SCORERS: Gala: Tries: C Dalgleish, Swan. Conversions: C Paterson (2). Penalty goals: C Paterson (2). Watsonians: Tries: Sinclair, Mayer, White, Burns, Henderson, Kerr, Giles (2), Fitzgerald. Conversions: Hodge (4). Penalty goals: Hodge (2).

GALA: M Changleng; C Dalgleish, G Dalgleish, B Swan, M Smith; C Paterson, D Boland; A Johnston, K Thomson, T Walker, K Rutherford, R Cavemill, R Gray, D Liddle, T Weir.

WATSONIANS: B Giles, G Hannah, G Mayer, A Gerry, J Kerr; D Hodge, G Burns; T Smith, G McKelvey, P Fitzgerald, C Mather, S Grimes, J White, I Sinclair, C Brown. Hannah replaced by F Henderson, 35min. Brown replaced by R Wainwright (40min), Burns replaced by J Weston (63); Sinclair replaced by N Penny (72)

Referee: I Ramage (Berwick).

Melrose, the favourites, will play West of Scotland in the quarter-finals of the SRU Tennents Cup after the draw was made yesterday.

QUARTER-FINAL DRAW: Peebles v Heriot's FP; West of Scotland v Melrose; Kirkcaldy v Dundee; HSFP Boroughmuir v Watsonians. *Ties to be played on April 20.*

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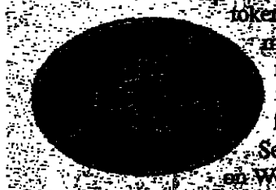
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CHANGING TIMES

RUGBY LEAGUE: ST HELENS SCRUM HALF MAKES COMFORTABLE RETURN

Goulding enjoys Paris in the spring

Paris Saint-Germain	6
St Helens	44

From a Correspondent in Paris

BOBBIE GOULDING celebrated his return to the St Helens team on Saturday by leading them to a comprehensive win over a disappointing Paris side. Goulding has been kicking his heels for two months after receiving a six-match ban for a high tackle in the Challenge Cup tie against Wigan.

"It was a bit strange," the St Helens captain said after this largely one-sided contest. "My timing was out a bit, which is understandable. That will come back over the next few weeks as I keep training and working with the lads."

The scrum half believes it will take three or four games for him to get back to his best, so he should be there or thereabouts for the meeting with Bradford Bulls in the Challenge Cup final, at Wembley on May 3.

At least his enforced absence has enabled St Helens to shed the tag of being a one-man team. Lee Briers, his understudy for those six matches, performed admirably and, although he did not even make the substitutes' bench here, the club knows that the teenager has become an important part of the squad.

Despite Goulding still feeling his way, St Helens possessed far too much power and pace for a Paris outfit that included two Frenchmen in their predominantly Australian team for the first time this season. Fabien Devecchi appeared on the wing and Pierre Chamorin at loose forward.

Fittingly, it was Chamorin who scored their only try just before half-time to bring the home side fleetingly back into contention. St Helens had rattled up 16 points without reply through tries from Alan Hunte, Anthony Sullivan and Tommy Martyn, with Goulding adding two penalties.

Just before half-time, though, they found themselves down to 12 men after Steve Prescott was sent to the sin bin for interfering at a play-the-ball. Paris took immediate advantage, David O'Donnell breaking down the middle and, as the St Helens defence desperately tried to regroup, the ball was worked out to the right, enabling Chamorin to score in the corner.

With Anthony Wall adding the conversion, the home side were only ten points adrift at the start of the second half, but it did not take long for the visitors to exert their superiority once again. Prescott atoned for his earlier misdemeanour with a try and others by Chris Joynt, Martin, Danny Arnold and Hunte followed, with Goulding landing two further conversions and a penalty.

There were odd flashes of the Goulding genius, including a half break that enabled Prescott to score and a perfectly weighted grubber kick that set up Hunte's try, but his performance really emphasised what a well-organised, professional outfit St Helens had become.

Despite a vociferous band of their supporters, it cannot have been easy for the players to motivate themselves in a half-empty stadium where a running track separates them from the crowd.



Goulding: influential

SCORERS: Paris Saint-Germain: Try: Chamorin. Conversion: Wall. St Helens: Tries: Hunte (2), Martyn (2), Sullivan, Prescott, Joynt, Arnold. Conversions: Goulding (4). Penalties: Goulding (2).

PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN: D Bird; A Wall, J Olejnik, P Evans, F Devecchi; D Lomax, P Bergman; J Sands, D O'Donnell, T Priddle, W Sing, M Hogue, P Chamorin. Substitutes: A Peters, P Bellamy, N Hyde, J Durkin.

ST HELENS: S Prescott; D Arnold, A Hunte, P Newlove, A Sullivan; T Martyn, B Goulding, A Pereleni, K Cunningham, J O'Neill, C Joynt, C Morley, K Hammond. Substitutes: V Matautia, A Northey, P Anderson, I Pickavance.

Referee: S Presley (Castleford).

New boys Salford stalk St Helens

By Our Sports Staff

SALFORD maintained their 100 per cent start to their first Super League season with a 28-16 victory at Halifax yesterday. The Reds have now won their first four matches and are second behind the champions, St Helens, who lead on points difference.

Nathan McAvoy, Scott Naylor, Scott Martin and the £500,000 new signing, Gary Broadbent, scored tries for Salford, who were playing their first away match of the season and ended a run of three successive home victories for the Bluesox.

The new Warrington coach, Darryl Van de Velde, enjoyed the perfect start to his reign at Wilderspool, the Wolves beating Oldham 28-18. John Roper scored 16 points with a try and six goals from seven attempts to leave the Bears at the foot of the table, still without a point.

Oldham made a flying start with tries from Martin Crompton and Francis Maloney, who converted both, to give the Bears a shock 12-2 lead, although Warrington recovered to lead 16-14 at the break. Roper tagged on two penalties before Kelly Shelford, the man of the match, kicked ahead and George Mann put Tony Tatupu over.

In first-half injury time, with Oldham down to 12 men after Howard Hill was sent to the sin bin, Nigel Vagana brushed off defenders to score. Warrington sealed victory with tries in three minutes from Mark Forster and Roper, who darted 40 yards to score from a Paul Sculthorpe pass. Oldham's Scott Ranson cut the gap to 28-18 in the sixtieth minute.

In the first division, Hull maintained their unbeaten start to the season, with a 43-10 defeat of Wakefield at the Boulevard. They stay a point clear of Huddersfield, 18-12 winners over Featherstone, and there is a five-point gap back to Wakefield and Whitehaven, who won 21-12 at Keighley. Workington, relegated last season, eased themselves away from the foot of the table with a comfortable 30-16 win over Dewsbury.

Carlisle, the second division leaders, recorded a 30-14 win over Hunslet, despite having two men sent off. Stuart Rhodes was sent off for a late tackle in the first half and Chris Whiteley was given his marching orders in the 46th minute for using an elbow in the tackle. Hunslet led 10-9 at the break, but Carlisle fought their way in front, leading 30-10 until a late Hunslet touchdown.

Rochdale's 24-14 win over Bramley kept them second to Carlisle on points difference, but Doncaster slumped to their sixth defeat in a row, losing 24-20 at home to Lancashire Lynx.



RUGBY UNION: DEFEAT OF NEWCASTLE IN RUGGED CONTEST UNDERLINES PROGRESS MADE UNDER WARREN

Bedford lay firm foundations to build on

Bedford 34
Newcastle 28

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THERE will be days such as this again in Bedford — though not necessarily at Goldington Road, their traditional home — if good husbandry and home-town commitment mean anything. Just when the second division of the Courage Clubs Championship had virtually acknowledged Newcastle's rise to the top, along came Bedford to spoil the party and the chances are that Richmond will now go up as champions.

If everything these days has a price, the one paid on Saturday was entirely unnecessary: the British Isles may lose a wing if Tony Underwood's broken jaw does not mend in time and Bedford are fortunate not to have lost their young lock, Scott Murray, for



Popplewell: punch

the final straight. Murray saw an eye specialist yesterday to assess the damage after a blatant punch by Nick Popplewell sent him to hospital in Luton and, if Newcastle have any sense of responsibility, they will discipline the Ireland prop forward.

The experienced Popplewell swung a big right hand as the ball moved away from a lineout, for which he received a yellow card. Steve Lander, the referee, acted entirely on his touch judge's advice because his back was to the incident, but Popplewell deserved to be sent off. Happily, Murray suffered no more than a cut eyebrow and bruising, but Bedford will invite the Rugby Football Union disciplinary officer to view the incident, if Newcastle do not take action.

It is not enough for the club management to hide behind the fact that the incident was dealt with by match officials at the time. A greater responsibility devolves on those who manage professional sport in these highly visual times and, though Newcastle may point to offences by Bedford players — late in the day there were yellow cards for dangerous tackles by Steve McCurrie and Junior Paramore, as well as Paul Hewitt's furious challenge on Underwood that dispatched the England wing to hospital — that does not wipe clean their own slate.

Murray was the most dependable Bedford ball-winner; as Sean Platford, their lock from Natal, is also injured it is timely that they have finalised the transfer of Norman Hadley, from Wasps. At least the joy of victory could balance their sense of grievance, a victory deserved on a frantic afternoon when 6,000 Bedford supporters came to appreciate that top-flight rugby could yet return.

Bedford perceive third place and a play-off against the club placed tenth in the first division as within reach, but they know that they cannot produce storming displays such as this one week in, week out. "Whether we get into the first division or not there will have to be more buys, sensible buys," Frank Warren, their chairman, said.

Warren would have been happy to see Bedford finish in the top six this season, but the mature combination of Geoff Cooke, the former England manager, with Paul Turner, Jeff Probyn and Rudolf Straeuli has paid unlooked-for dividends. It means that Warren now has to consider whether a purpose-built stadium on an alternative site should be part of his plans, so that the five-figure crowds he believes are on tap can be accommodated.

Newcastle will be concerned that, with the greater weight of possession and penalties and the strong wind at their backs in the second half, they could not secure victory. Of wider concern is the fact that a side including four Lions backs could make so little impression with ball in hand. Of that quartet, Underwood has been told that, though his jaw has not been displaced, he is unlikely to play again for a month and the Lions leave for South Africa on May 17.

So dependent were Newcastle on Va'aiga Tuigamala to take them forward that the Bedford defence knew that if they could hold the big man, half their task would be done. Thus McCurrie launched himself time and again in the tackle, closely attended by Paramore, whose combination with Straeuli and Roy Winters was so vital for Bedford.

That they were prepared to infringe the offside line time and again — 30 penalties went Newcastle's way compared with 15 to Bedford — appeared not to concern them, because they found the precious ability to score points at critical moments. Much of that stemmed from the play at scrum half of Darren Edwards, the Welshman on loan from Saracens, who showed great vision and good hands in everything he did as well as securing a try on the stroke of half-time.

His pass set Paramore free to send Hewitt over for the first try after Rayer and Andrew had exchanged penalties. He was involved again when Paramore and Straeuli drove downfield and Turner's soft pass sent Whetstone careering free for his thirteenth try of the season in league and cup. Though Andrew floated two penalties down the wind, Bedford had the perfect response when Boyd, their Irish prop, was driven over.

A 20-point lead going into the final quarter set the scene for a rearguard action of the highest quality. Tuigamala set Tait free, Lam crossed for a second Newcastle try and suddenly the gap was down to six points; then the smoothest of passing by Paramore and McCurrie gave Offiah a sniff of the line and he needed no second invitation. That Graham scored in the fifth minute of stoppage time mattered not a jot to Bedford, or to their baying crowd.



Offiah celebrates scoring the fifth try for Bedford to put them on the way to an impressive victory over Newcastle. Photograph: John Gichigi/Allsport

SCORERS: Bedford: Tries: Hewitt, Edwards, Whetstone, Boyd, Offiah. Conversions: Rayer (3) Penalty goal: Rayer Newcastle: Tries: Tait, Lam, Graham Conversions: Andrew (2) Penalty goals: Andrew (3).
BEDFORD: M Rayer; P Hewitt, B Whetstone, S McCurrie, M Offiah, P Turner, D Edwards; C Boyd, P Simmonds, J Probyn, R Winters, S Murray, N Hadley, J Paramore, R Straeuli. Murray replaced by M Deans (49min); Simmonds replaced by N McCarthy (77).
NEWCASTLE: T Simpson; J Bentley, A Tait, V Tuigamala, T Underwood; R Andrew, G Armstrong, N Popplewell, R Needale, G Graham, S O'Neill, G Archer, G Weir, R Arnold, P Lam. Underwood replaced by G Childs (53); O'Neill temporarily replaced by H Vyvyan (30-40)
Referee: S Lander (Liverpool)

Accurate Jarvis displays touch of master

Cardiff 46
Neath 17

BY GERALD DAVIES

LEE JARVIS, the Cardiff stand-off half, is developing wonderfully in the position that he will no doubt take over next season, when Jonathan Davies is likely to have a less prominent role.

Varying his play with his kicking, passing and running, Jarvis, 21, is maturing rapidly. There are errors of timing still, but these will also be corrected when he plays as first choice in the position and performs more regularly.

More than these factors is his vast influence as a points-scorer. The understudy to Neil Jenkins at Pontypridd before he joined Cardiff, he has clearly inherited his accuracy from the goalkicking maestro.

In the first quarter of this match on Saturday, Neath exerted plenty of pressure but Jarvis, once he was presented with opportunities to kick at goal, took them with alacrity, whereas Case was failing with seemingly easier chances for the visitors. In a period of five minutes, Jarvis put his side into the lead with three penalties. Before half-time he had collected another two and converted two splendid tries that Cardiff had manufactured for Walker and Hill. It was an immaculate, effortless display.

Neath could only respond with a penalty from Case on the stroke of half-time. That Jarvis should kick one conversion and miss two after the interval did not take anything away from the impression that he is going to play a leading role in Cardiff's future. He will need to keep up his average over the next few weeks if his side is to finish in the top four of the Welsh League and qualify for the Heineken Cup.

Neath need some victories, too, but for a different reason. With the first division to be reduced to eight clubs, the champions of last season are only two points ahead of Dunvant, who are in ninth position. On Saturday, their young players broke through midfield regularly, thanks to the finely timed passing of Hawkins and Funnell. They created some flowing moves, but were not able to capitalise.

Cardiff only played confidently in fits and starts. It is the search for greater consistency that no doubt prompted the swift return of Alex Evans as coach on Wednesday. His first task will be to prepare the team for the Swalec Cup semi-final against Llanelli on Sunday. Cardiff know that they need a more rounded performance than this to succeed.

SCORERS: Cardiff: Tries: Walker, Hill (2), Ford, Ringer Conversions: Jarvis (3) Penalty goals: Jarvis (5). Neath: Tries: Bridges, S Williams, Conversions: Case (2) Penalty goals: Case.
CARDIFF: J Thomas; S Ford, L Davies, S Hill, N Walker; L Jarvis, R Howley; A Lewis, J Humphreys, L Mustoe, J Ringer, K Stewart, D Jones, M Bennett, O Williams. Howley replaced by J Hewlett (59min). Humphreys replaced by P Young (66), D Jones replaced by L Jones (52)
NEATH: D Case, C Higgs, D Hawkins, J Funnell, Richard Jones, Darren Morris, C Bridges; D Morris, B Williams, J Davies, I Boobyer, S Martin, N Watkins, Robin Jones, S Williams. Darren Morris replaced by G Davies (63min), J Davies replaced by L Gerrard (57); Boobyer replaced by G Newman (63); Robin Jones replaced by S Gardner (63).
Referee: Robert G Davis (Dunvant).

Clubs protest to no avail

THE executive carried the day by 206 to 147 votes at the special meeting in Cardiff yesterday that agreed to cut the Welsh League premier division from 12 teams to eight from next season.

The bottom four teams will help to form a new 16-team first division that will include Cross Keys and Llandovery, who lead the present second division and whose hopes of promotion have now been ended.

Officials from Treorchy, Caerphilly and Llandovery made impassioned pleas for the plan to be scrapped, although all six sides directly affected by restructuring will receive financial compensation. The Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) confirmed that the new premier division would kick off on August 16, with one club being relegated and one promoted.

The WRU also revealed that Wales's international against Romania will take place at the Racecourse Ground, home of Wrexham Football Club, while work continues on the Millennium Stadium. No decision has been made on where Wales will play their five nations' fixtures next season.

Leicester's second-string make poor Orrell look like amateurs

Leicester 36
Orrell 14

BY ALISON KERVIN

IT IS difficult to be harsh about Orrell: almost politically incorrect. The northern team have come to hold such a unique place in the public's affections because of their reluctance to bow to the demands of professionalism that criticising them is like denouncing nurses.

But this is a professional era and the consequences of Orrell's decision to sit tight while the winds of change blow all around them are becoming clearer as the season progresses. Orrell play with guts and determination, with heart and soul, and they challenge their opponents — but they rarely win. And for that reason they are adrift at the bottom of the Courage League first division.

On Saturday, Leicester, one of the title contenders, chose initially to rest some newly-selected British Lions at the risk of not nudging up their precious points difference, which could prove crucial by the end of the season. Orrell undoubtedly derived benefit from the diminution of Leicester's front row, allowing them to give the Midland's side a few scares in the scrums.

Leicester took the lead, however, which they never relinquished, after just five minutes when Rob Liley, the stand-off half, put Niall Malone away for a try. Then came the try of the match — Bill Drake-Lee made an initial break, well supported by his forwards, before shipping the ball out to Craig Joiner to pass to Steve Hackney to score. Orrell replied through scrum half Steve Cook, who took the ball over after a bullish run from Michael Worsley.

Rory Underwood ended a poor first quarter — dropping passes in the drizzling rain — by taking a well-timed pass from Neil Back and sprinting for the line. Leicester made it four when Matt Poole went over.

In the second half, Leicester's attempts to pile on the points were curtailed by strong Orrell defence, but Malone got his second try of the day and Joiner capped a good performance in the centre with Leicester's sixth. Orrell managed just one score in return — a penalty try after Dean Richards was caught unbound at the back of the scrum.

In the 67th minute, Orrell could only stand and gape as Martin Johnson, the Lions captain, led Dean Richards, Austin Healey and Graham Rowntree on to the pitch as Leicester's replacements.

SCORERS: Leicester: Tries: Malone (2), Hackney, Underwood, Poole, Joyner Conversions: J Liley (3) Orrell: Tries: Cook, penalty try Conversions: McCarthy (2)
LEICESTER: J Liley; S Hackney, N Malone, C Joiner, R Underwood R Liley, A Balcombe, D Jelley, D West, D Garforth, B Drake-Lee, N Fleetcher, M Poole, E Miller, N Back. Miller replaced by D Richards (67min), Fletcher replaced by M Johnson (67) Garforth replaced by G Rowntree (67), Underwood replaced by A Healey (71); Hackney replaced by P Delaney (74)
ORRELL: D Lyon; J Naylor, P Hamer, L Tuigamala, N Heslop, M McCarthy, S Cook, M Worsley, N Hinchen, S Turner, A Bennett, P Rees, C Brierley, R Higgs, P Anglesea. Hinchen replaced by A Mallett (42) Brierley replaced by J Hurley (67). Lyon replaced by R Hitchmough (74), Cook replaced by R Savenmutto (75)
Referee: S Piercy (Yorkshire)

Mapletoft sinks Saracens' sad stars with last-ditch strikes

Gloucester 9
Saracens 6

BY BRYAN STILES

TRIUMPHANT Gloucester supporters could not resist the temptation to sing a few choruses of "What a waste of money" as the costly multinational Saracens team trudged off having had victory snatched from their grasp in the dying minutes of this Courage Clubs Championship match at Kingsholm on Saturday.

Gloucester's rugged, home-grown team had more than matched their cosmopolitan rivals in a rousing finale that saw Mark Mapletoft, their stand-off half, collect two dropped goals, the first to level the scores and the second to secure victory, all in the last seven minutes.

The result pulls Gloucester a little farther away from the relegation that seemed inevitable earlier in the season. It also put a dent in Saracens' hopes of finishing in the league's top four, which would bring them a place in the European Cup next season.

Richard Hill, the Gloucester director of rugby, reckons his team need another two points to be sure of retaining their status and is confident they will get them when they meet Leicester tomorrow at Kingsholm. Motivation will be no problem for his players after the way Leicester beat them in the Pilkington Cup semi-final a week ago.

On Saturday Gloucester, despite their full-blooded display, looked for most of the game as if they were going to lose, particularly as they faced such a firmament of costly stars who always seemed about to explode into try-scoring action. Saracens fielded eight internationals, including Francois Pienaar (South Africa), Philippe Sella (France) and Tony Daly (Australia). More importantly, they paraded the talents of Richard Hill, of England, the pick of them all.

With their array of talent and territorial advantage, Saracens should not have had to suffer the Gloucester taunts, but they hung their heads, especially when Pienaar, the "Mr Clean" of rugby, was issued with a yellow card for foul play in the second half.

One player who had a smile on his face for most of the game was Dave Sims, the Gloucester captain, whose wife, Jill, gave birth to their first baby, Nathaniel, in hospital at 2.10pm, leaving Sims with just enough time to make the kick-off.

Tunningley and Lee kicked penalty goals for Saracens and Mapletoft replied with a penalty goal and two dropped goals.

SCORERS: Gloucester: Dropped goals: Mapletoft (2). Penalty goal: Mapletoft. Saracens: Penalty goals: Tunningley, Lee.
GLOUCESTER: C Catling; M Peters, C Emmerson, M Roberts, M Lloyd; M Mapletoft, S Benton; T Windo, P Greening, A Deacon, P Glanville, R Fidler, D Sims, N Carter, S Devereux. Windo replaced by T Woodman (53min). Catling replaced by A Lumsden (65), Glanville replaced by A Stanley (40)
SARACENS: A Tunningley; K Chesney, P Sella, S Ravenscroft, R Wallace; A Lee, K Bracken; T Daly, G Botterman, P Wallace, J Green, P Johns, A Copsey, R Hill, A Diprose. Sella replaced by K Sorrell (50), Green replaced by F Pienaar (62). Daly replaced by A Oliver (74)
Referee: A Rowden (Berkshire)

Sale bargaining on European windfall

West Hartlepool 22
Sale 43

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

AS MUCH as reaching the Pilkington Cup final next month means to Sale, their sights are set on greater riches in Europe next season. To achieve them, they need to beat the three teams above them in their six remaining Courage Clubs Championship fixtures, which is by no means impossible given the mood that they are in.

However, the wear and tear on a small squad was showing at Brierton Lane on Saturday, despite the emphatic nature of a third win in eight days. West Hartlepool threatened an upset when they recovered from 19-3 down to 19-17. Predictably, they fell apart again and are now perched above the relegation trapdoor.

West's hopes of avoiding second division rugby next season are slim. As well as they can play in patches there is an infuriating inconsistency about them: as solid and creative as the back row of Ions, Earnshaw and Morgan looked when going forward, they were nowhere to be seen in the try off a scrum by Mannix that swung the match Sale's way again.

Dewi Morris, wayward up to that point, laid on Mannix's all-important try, then put Beim away for the second of his three scores and plundered one himself in a runaway finish for the Manchester team.

SCORERS: West Hartlepool: Tries: S John (2). Penalty goals: C John (4) Sale: Tries: Beim (3), Mitchell, Rees, Mannix. D Morris Conversions: Mannix (4)
WEST HARTLEPOOL: K Oliphant; S John, J Donnelly, T Knowles, G Trucfove, C John, B Ryan, D Barnes, A Peacock, W de Jonge, J Ions, C Murphy, L Francis, R Earnshaw. I Morgan. Peacock replaced by M Kennedy (68min); Francis replaced by G Rowlands (66), Ions replaced by D Mitchell (68)
SALE: J Mallinder; D Rees, J Baxendell, A Hadley, T Beim, S Mannix, D Morris; M Dwyer, L Hewson, A Smith, D Erskine, J Fowler, D Baldwin, D O'Grady. J Mitchell (O'Grady replaced by A Morris (24) Dwyer replaced by A Yates (59). Hadley replaced by D Wright (70), Mitchell replaced by P Sanderson (77).
Referee: N Cousins (London)

Bristol's outlook brighter

Bristol 20
Northampton 11

BY NICOLAS ANDREWS

DOWN among the dead men, something stirs. Bristol may still be red-hot favourites for a relegation play-off place, and they would need to win four of their last five games to have a chance of avoiding it, but this second successive victory in the Courage Clubs Championship suggests that they might, at last, be heading in the right direction.

Certainly, a two-leg play-off meeting with their former captain, Derek Eves, and his Coventry team-mates next month will seem a lot more palatable if they can sustain this run of improved form.

Bristol have restructured their off-field activities, promoting David Tyler, another former captain, to chief executive. Meanwhile, Alan Davies, the coach, has concentrated on the development of his younger players. And the signs are encouraging.

Without Regan and Shaw, their two British Lions, but with a strong wind at their backs, Bristol led a distinctly lacklustre Northampton 20-3 at the break. Rollitt scored the first try from a rolling maul after a tapped penalty and the impressive Corry broke and fed Waters for the second three minutes later. Burke converted both and kicked two penalties to pass 250 points for the season.

Northampton roused themselves after the break and spent much of the second half within reach of the Bristol line. The tackling in defence was resolute, however, and Townsend, at stand-off half in the absence of Grayson, missed three penalty kicks, which effectively prevented Northampton getting back into the game.

Hunter's late try reduced the deficit, but Northampton, with four British Lions among those present, wore the look of a side with their minds on other things. "We didn't do ourselves justice," Ian McGeechan, the Northampton director of rugby, said. "We had chances, but we didn't take them."

If Bristol are to avoid the play-offs, it could well be at Northampton's expense. "There are a lot of key games to come," McGeechan said.

Rodber went off early with a neck injury, Townsend was a disappointing goalkicker and Dawson emphatically lost the scrum-half battle to a former Lion in Robert Jones. Bristol know they have a battle in prospect but, with the South Africa tour looming, it would be all too easy for some Northampton players to forget the job in hand. It could yet be a testing few weeks for McGeechan's men.

SCORERS: Bristol: Tries: Rollit, Waters Conversions: Burke (2) Penalty goals: Burke (2) Northampton: Try: Hunter. Penalty goals: Townsend (2)
BRISTOL: J Lewsey; D Tiuri, F Waters, K Maggs, B Breeze, P Burke, R Jones; D Hinkins, B McConnell, K Fulman, M Corry, P Adams, C Eagle, R Collins, E Rollit. Rollit replaced by D Corkery (40min); Jones replaced by R Smith (75)
NORTHAMPTON: I Hunter, N Beal, J Bell, M Allan, H Thorneycroft, G Townsend, M Dawson, M Volland, A Clarke, M Stewart, T Rodber, J Phillips, J Chandler, J Wright, G Seely. Bell replaced by E Cohen (33); Chandler replaced by S Poole (61), Rodber replaced by C Johnson (79)
Referee: J Pearson (Cleveland).

Irish slam brakes on Harlequins' journey

London Irish 20
Harlequins 19

BY PETER BILLS

THE price that Harlequins may pay for this defeat has yet to be calculated and, indeed, the surprising defeat of Saracens at Gloucester spared them an even worse outcome to the weekend.

But if Harlequins miss a place in the European Cup via a top-four finish in the Courage Clubs Championship, then the ramifications will be severe. What was known even before this reversal on Saturday was that Harlequins are releasing eight players and seeking to recruit five or six new men. Those figures may be adjusted in the light of their second serious defeat in consecutive weeks.

Harlequins established a 13-0 lead within the first 15 minutes at Sunbury and then selected cruise control. Little more than an hour later, they were coming to terms with one of the most significant upsets of the season.

The spirited Irish were allowed to destroy any pattern to the game through the commitment opitimised by players such as Dawson, O'Connell, Fulcher and Bishop.

With Harlequins leading 19-13, Irish launched a late attack. Humphreys made the half-break and O'Shea forced his way over near the posts. Humphrey's conversion was greeted with a tumultuous roar.

SCORERS: London Irish: Tries: Walsh, O'Shea. Conversions: Humphreys (2) Penalty goals: Humphreys (2) Harlequins: Tries: Chapman Conversion: Lacroix. Penalty goals: Lacroix (3) Dropped goal: Lacroix
LONDON IRISH: C O'Shea, N Woods, J Bishop, N Burrows, R Hennessy; D Humphreys, N Hogan, J Fitzpatrick, A Redmond, G Halpin, K O'Connell, G Fulcher, J Davidson, K Dawson, R Yeabsley. Davidson replaced by B Walsh (2min); Yeabsley replaced by C Bird (77).
HARLEQUINS: J Staples, D Chapman, P Mensah, W Carling, J Williams, T Lacroix, N Walshe, J Leonard, T Billups, A Mullins, R Jenkins, A Snow, L Gross, L Cabannes, W Davison. Walshe replaced by H Hames (70); Jenkins replaced by I Pickup (70)
Referee: C Rees (London Society)

Richard Dunwoody reflects on a day of sadness which stiffened the resolve

Determined to put on a great display

We will take home our own memories of what happened at Aintree on Saturday but the overriding emotion for me was one of sadness. It was a very sad day for sport in general and the irony is that no sport brings the countries of England and Ireland closer together than racing — especially steeplechasing.

If anything, the bomb scare that ruined the day for so many has brought the jockeys from both countries closer together. We acknowledged the futility of our situation on Saturday. There was nothing we, or anyone else, could do. But now we are more determined than ever to put up a great show today.

All jockeys are proud of the Grand National. It is our biggest showcase; it transcends the normal racing audience and it will, God willing, take place this afternoon. The crowds may be slightly diminished but it is our race, our show and it will mean everything to everyone involved today. Nothing can change that. It has been delayed for 48 hours, that is all.

We saw some wonderful moments of defiance on Saturday, culminating in the rescheduling of the race. Like everyone else, I thought the people at Aintree handled the situation as well as anyone could have expected. Fortunately, there were no injuries to humans or horses. Thinking about these details has helped to put the whole thing into perspective: we are all there to race today.

Before the scare on Saturday, I was one of the last to leave the weighing room. I'd changed into my lightest riding gear when I heard the announcement to evacuate the course. At first we thought it would be all over in two minutes — scares of this type have happened before in racing. But we soon realised there was no way the race would be going ahead this time.

Some of us headed towards the owners' and trainers' car park via the Melling Road. That road is a famous landmark in the Grand National and it goes without saying we were all expecting to cross it on horseback.

Still, there were consolations on a bitterly cold afternoon. Around a dozen jockeys, a handful of owners and the odd trainer ended up drinking cups of tea at Mrs Sunderland's house by the side of the course. My valet, John Buckingham, stays with her for the meeting and she did us proud. I believe something stronger than tea was doing the rounds but, sadly, it never came my way.

To judge by the state of a few of my colleagues on Sunday morning, something stronger was certainly drunk at the Adelphi Hotel in Liverpool the night before. I stayed in Runcorn and had an enjoyable dinner in the company of a few friends. I travelled back from Aintree in the back of Robert Alner's horsebox. I never thought I would be so pleased to see the inside of one of those again.

We left Aintree three hours after we had to evacuate the course and most of us were freezing. The fact that it is now a one-off race, with no supporting card, does not allow us the chance to warm up.

I like to have a ride or two in advance of a big race — it loosens the muscles and I am without any aches and pains. For these reasons, the ride none of us look forward to is the first on a Monday. So many horses are set to carry the minimum weight of ten stone today that many of the boys have been wasting to make the weight. We will have to stretch each other into shape — although I am sure the adrenalin will play its part in helping us warm up.

You cannot keep jockeys down for long, however, and sure enough some interesting tales are filtering through about what they have been up to. The younger ones play hard at this meeting; unfortunately, their trainers might not be too amused to learn about that here, although from what I've heard, one or two of them have shown the stamina required to match the winner of the Grand National itself.

Let's not forget that's why we are all here today. The objective remains the same, the challenge equally daunting, and the sensation of winning will be just as acute. I have the feeling that this afternoon's race will be one of the most exciting.

We, as jockeys, will be doing our utmost to make it so.



Dunwoody, left, and Jason Titley in good spirits at Aintree before the announcement of the bomb scare

Betting industry owes Aintree National debt

Alasdair Murray analyses the financial implications of Saturday's postponement

The betting industry yesterday breathed a huge sigh of relief after the decision was taken to restage Saturday's postponed Grand National today. An abandonment had threatened to throw the industry's revival offcourse.

The loss of the National — for the second time in four years — would have badly dented the bookmakers annual profits. An estimated £70 million has been laid out on the big race this year with the bookmakers expected to take around £5 million in profit from their biggest day of the year.

But it is the unquantifiable impact that the cancellation of the National would have had on future business that most worried the bookmakers. The Grand National provides the betting industry with an unequalled shop window — the one day that thousands of first-time or infrequent punters visit betting shops and become exposed to the increasingly wide array of betting products on offer. These customers are hardly likely to be won over by a race that fails to take place.

The betting industry has suffered a lean time during the last few years. The embarrassment of the void Grand National in 1993 has been followed by a succession of weather interruptions to the winter National Hunt program. The profitability of the Flat racing season during the summer has also been hit by arid weather, greatly reducing the number of runners and thus making racing less attractive and more predictable.

Moreover, the arrival of competition from the National Lottery has damaged the industry considerably. The Lottery has cost bookmakers an estimated £120 million a year in turnover — with the vast majority of the shortfall coming from bets placed on racing.

The major bookmakers — Ladbrokes, Coral and William Hill — have begun to fight back against the Lottery, winning a succession of deregulatory measures which have reduced betting tax and permitted cash-prize amusement machines in betting shops for the first time. But the success of other forms of betting — an estimated £80 million was staked on football's European Championship last year — and the introduction of new products, such as 49s, a fixed-odds lottery bet, that has helped bookmakers stem the decline in profits.

The betting industry is desperate to cast-off its old-man's image — largely associated with racing — and attract new customers, especially women. The City is also keen for bookmakers to expand into new markets, not just to restore the lost profits, but to improve the financial stability of the betting industry. Racing remains a volatile medium: Frankie Dettori's seven winners at Ascot cost the bookies around £30 million last year. The last thing the industry needs is uncertainty of whether its flagship event will even take place.

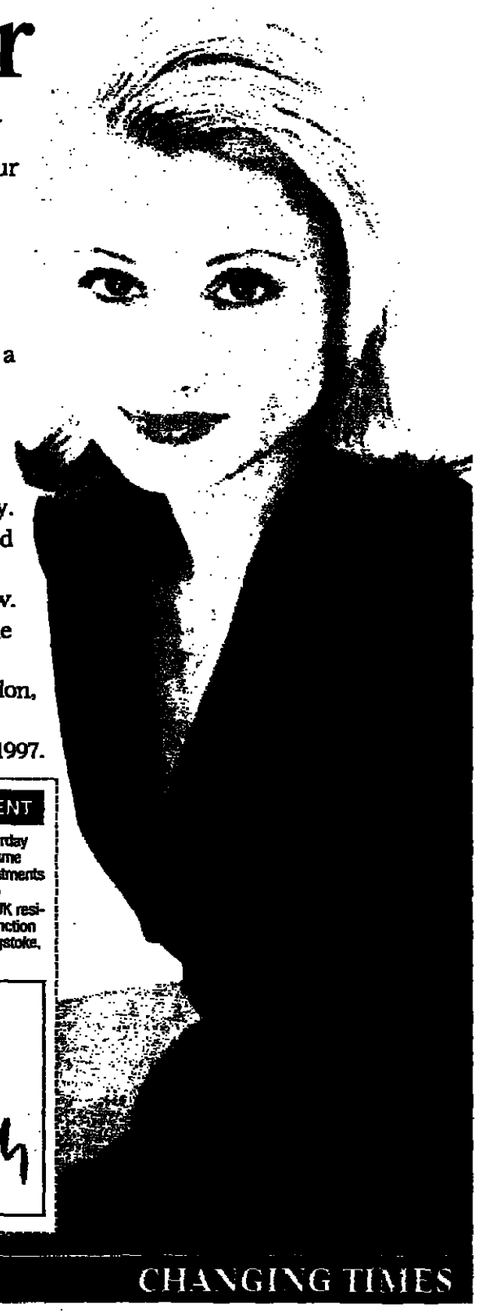
Not surprisingly, the proportion of bookmaker turnover from racing is declining — from 75 per cent in 1990 to 70 per cent last year. This has a knock-on impact on the quality of racing through the Levy — approximately 1 per cent of every bet — being reinvested in the sport. The cancellation of the National would have cost the sport around £750,000.

For the moment, the bookmakers insist that racing remains their core activity. The National Hunt season has largely gone to plan this year, and although there are again worries that some courses will be too firm, it is far too early to comment on the Flat season. The bookmakers hope that heavy promotion of other betting opportunities may also ultimately lead new punters into betting on the horses.

But the pressures from both the City, which wants to see steady profits, and stiff competition from other gambling activities are forcing the bookmakers to look beyond racing. Further mishaps like Saturday's will only accelerate the decline in importance of betting on racing.

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THE TIMES

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CHANGING TIMES

Need to consider postponements

THE extremely dry conditions are having a damaging impact on the sport and after four poor meetings on Saturday it is time to consider postponements (Carl Evans writes).

Such a notion will be anathema to hunts, which jealously guard their traditional dates and know that moving at short notice invariably reduces the crowd — it can also cause a clash with other nearby meetings but these are unusual circumstances and what is being offered to the public is not racing. Sometimes it is even unfair to ask horses to compete.

Regulation courses are no longer allowed to stage meetings on hard ground, and point-to-pointing should follow the same route.

In general, spectators turn up regardless, happy to support their local hunt and enjoy a day in the countryside. That was not the case at the **Royal Artillery** meeting at Larkhill, the scene of a sparse attendance on Saturday.

Two walk-overs did at least prevent the winners having to gallop on very firm turf. The rest of the racing was contested by moderate horses and, while Fosbury was another welcome winner for title-chasing Tim Mitchell, his beating of three lowly rivals was like watching concrete dry.

POINT-TO-POINT RESULTS

BRAMHAM MOOR (Wetherby) Hunt: 1, Cot Lane (J Tate, 1-3 fav) 2, Orbit: only 2 finished 3 ran. Rest: 1, Notanus (Mrs K Hargreave, 5-1). 2, Dear Emily: 3, Cadrillon . 6 ran Ladies Open: 1, Cheeky Pot (Mrs S Grant, 1-5 fav), 2, Pustino, only 2 finished. 2 ran Men's Open 1, Frome Boy (P Johnson); finished alone Inter 1, Sharp Challenge (T Glass, 2-1), 2, Mac's Blade ; only 2 finished 3 ran Open Mdn I 1, Persian Lion (MissT Jackson 7-4 fav); 2, Mademe Daltarge, 3, Top Odder 7 ran Open Mdn II 1, Just A King (G Tuer 3-1), 2, Another Delight, 3, Malenski . 3 ran

CURRE (Howick) Hunt: 1, Sebastopol (D Stephens, Evens fav); 2, Kingfisher Bay, only 2 finished 4 ran. Interlink Rest I: 1, Mostyn (Miss P Gundry, 5-2), 2, Casa Nostra, 3, Yarron King 6 ran Interlink Rest II: 1, Savage Oak (E Williams, 1-5 fav); 2, Red Rhapsody, only 2 finished, 2 ran Confined 1, Rusty Music (Miss N Richards, 7-2); 2, Norsy Welcome, 3, Icecapade . 6 ran Land Rover Open: 1, Beinn Mohr (E Williams, 4-6 fav); 2, Adanac: only 2 finished 3 ran Ladies 1, Wake Up Luv (Miss P Cooper, 11-8 fav), 2, Lucky Ole Son, 3, Algaihabane 4 ran Intermediate 1, The Last Mistress (J Price, 3-1), 2, French Stick, only 2 finished 2 ran Mdn I 1, I'm A Bute (J Price, 6-4), 2, Flowerhill; 3, Little Easo . 4 ran Mdn II 1, Moor Hill Lass (G Lewis, 7-2); 2, Miss Dior; 3, Lennie The Lion, 7 ran

FITZWILLIAM (Cottenham) Hunt: 1, Stanwick Farlap (T Marks, 1-4 fav), 2, Current Attraction; only 2 finished 2 ran Confined 1, Horace (W Wales, 6-4 fav), 2, Cockstown Lad; 3, Salmon Mead . 3 ran. Men's Open 1, Mister Spectator (S R Andrews, 9-4), 2, Over The Edge 3, Ok Corral . 3 ran Ladies 1, Kumada (Miss S Grifton, 8-1); 2, Cherry Chap; 3, Counterbid 3 ran Interlink Restricted: 1, Claydons Monty (S R Andrews, Evens fav), 2, Colonel Kenson, only 2 finished 4 ran Open Mdn I 1, Coptic Dancer (W Wales, 5-4 jt fav); 2, Lantern Spark . 3, Silly Pet. 4 ran. Open Mdn II 1, Roscolvin (N Bloom, 6-4); 2, Rivers End; 3, Regal Shadow 6 ran

ROYAL ARTILLERY (Larkhill) Hunt: 1, Wesshaun (G Chanter, 5-4); 2, Quayle, 3, Gunner Stream. 3 ran Open Mdn (6-7yo): 1, Nicolinsky (Mrs S Walwin, 12-1); 2, Scarra Darragh . only 2 finished 6 ran Confined 1, Indian Knight (M Miller), finished alone Intermediate: 1, Stallbridge Gold (Miss A Goschen), finished alone Mixed Open 1, Fosbury (T Mitchell, 2-5 fav); 2, Gallant Effort . only 2 finished 4 ran Rest: 1, Miss Magic (F Brennan, 5-4), 2, No Reply; only 2 finished 3 ran Hunt: 1, Havana (Sgt C Lloyd, 2-1 fav); 2, Henley; 3, Hercules 8 ran

SATURDAY'S RESULTS

Aintree

Going: good

1.45 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Shanker (Mr R Thornton, 25-1); 2, Direct Route (16-1); 3, Dreams End (12-1); 4, Clifton Boat (16-1). Secret Spring 3-1 fav. 18 ran. NR: Edelweiss Du Moulin 2½l, nk. D Nicholson Tote: £22.80; £2.80, £2.70, £3.40, £6.20. DF: £204.40. Trio: £1,125.00 CSF: £330.64. Tricast: £4,958.11.

2.20 (2m ch) 1, Down The Fell (N Williamson, 20-1); 2, Lord Darcel (13-2); 3, Wee River (14-1) Celibate 7-2 fav (f). 10 ran. 7l, 6l. H Johnson. Tote: £36.90; £5.80, £2.30, £3.70. DF: £92.00. Trio: £410.80. CSF: £131.17. Tricast: £1,723.97

2.55 (2m 4f hdle) 1, Birmsey (M A Fitzgerald, 14-1); 2, Pridwell (12-1); 3, Make A Stand (7-4 fav). 7 ran. 1½l, 16l. R Alexhurst. Tote: £15.40; £4.00, £2.70. DF: £48.40. CSF: £128.31

☐ Remainder of meeting abandoned.

Beverley

2.00 1, Champagne Warrior (11-2); 2, Belquin Prince (16-1); 3, Pointe Sophie (40-1). Brodessa 2-1 fav. 12 ran.

2.30 1, Gulf Shaadi (8-1); 2, Rambo Waltzer (100-30); 3, Genuine John (14-1); 4, Power Game (10-1). Three Arch Bridge 3-1 fav. 17 ran.

3.00 1, Classy Cleo (6-4 fav); 2, Heavenly Abstone (13-8), 3, Inchalong (16-1). 9 ran. NR: Golden Mirage.

3.30 1, Bolshoi (9-4); 2, Cretan Gift (14-1), 3, Brave Edge (2-1 fav) 6 ran.

4.15 1, Brambles Way (7-1); 2, Jean Pierre (16-2); 3, Petit Flora (50-1), 4, Augustan (7-1) Ambidextrous 5-2 fav. 19 ran.

4.45 1, Blooming Amazing (16-1); 2, Kaser Kache (12-1); 3, Sandbaggedagain (8-1). 12 ran. NR: Kalal, Over To You. Kalal (13-8 fav) was withdrawn, not under orders — rule 4 applies to all bets, deduct 35p in pound

Hereford

1.35 1, Nautical Jewel (7-2); 2, Pridewood Fuggle (Evens fav); 3, Bold Time Monkey (8-1). 4 ran.

2.10 1, Royal Saxon walked over. NR: Fifth Amendment, Wixoe Wonder.

2.40 1, Contract Bridge (2-1 jt-fav); 2, Magical Bluss (8-1); 3, Aimaps (2-1 jt-fav). 11 ran.

3.10 1, Nectanebo (25-1); 2, Tom's Apache (13-2); 3, Dalamaire (8-5 fav). 11 ran. NR: Run With Joy.

4.25 1, Euro Singer (9-4 fav); 2, Va Utu (9-2), 3, Dissolve (9-2) 8 ran.

4.55 1, Duke Of Dreams (16-8); 2, Pandora's Prize (10-1); 3, Something Catchy (15-2). Another Venture 4-5 fav (f). 8 ran

5.25 1, Clangour (6-1); 2, Kingswood Manor (4-1); 3, Hi Marble (7-4 fav) 7 ran.

SOUTHWELL

THUNDERER

2.15 Honourable. 2.45 Julia's Relative. 3.15 Square Deal. 3.45 Cats Bottom. 4.15 One Of The Rail. 4.45 Touch'N'Go.

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

2.15 KING ARTHUR MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,277: 7f) (9 runners)

101	(9)	0-	AGENT MULDER 187 P Cundell 9-0	J Lowe	–
102	(3)	0	BADRINATH 9 N Callaghan 9-0	M Fenton	–
103	(6)		BISON BELTING J Glover 9-0	G Carter	–
104	(5)	5-0	HERMANUS 9 (B) M Jarvis 9-0	P Bloomfield	–
105	(1)	3	HONOURABLE 17 J Watts 9-0	J Carroll	(3)
106	(2)	222-	MR PARADISE 133 T Naughton 9-0	D Holland	94
107	(4)	6	SUPERAPPAROS 24 S Bowring 9-0	S Webster	67
108	(7)	00-	WATER GARDEN 156 G Wragg 9-0	M Hills	–
109	(8)	0	IMPETUOSITY 12 C Thornton 8-9	D McKeown	–

6-4 Honourable, 9-4 Mr Paradise, 5-1 Water Garden, 8-1 Hermanus, 10-1 Bison Belting, 16-1 Impetuosity, 20-1 others

2.45 GALAHAD MAIDEN CLAIMING STAKES (£2,277: 5f) (8)

201	(7)	-000	GLORIA IMPERATOR 21 (B) A Mulholland 4-9-6	M Birch	67
202	(3)	00	RISKY LOVER 12 D Shaw 4-9-3	J Fanning	72
203	(8)	-436	BON GUEST 37 (BF) T Naughton 3-8-1	D Holland	80
204	(4)	650-	SHARP HOLLY 2073 J Bennett 5-8-13	T Sprake	70
205	(6)	50-0	SHERWOOD 88 K Ivory 4-8-11	G Bardwell	75
206	(1)	0-	REDSPET 160 S Bowring 3-8-4	D McKeown	–
207	(2)	0-50	WHAT'S THAT AMY 21 C Smith 3-8-4	J F Egan	72
208	(5)	2622	JULIA'S RELATIVE 6 (BF) R Guest 3-7-13	R Fitzroch (7)	(6)

5-4 Julia's Relative, 6-4 Bon Guest, 7-1 Gloria Imperator, 10-1 Redspet, 12-1 Sharwood, 14-1 Sharp Holly, 16-1 others

3.15 EXCALIBUR HANDICAP (£3,096: 1m) (16)

301	(10)	1452	JIBEREEN 21 (C,BF,G,S) P Howling 5-10-0	S Whitworth	94
302	(12)	500-	YOUNG AMRAMEL 216 (C) C Dwyer 4-9-11	D R McCabe	88
303	(15)	1120	BASSHOT 12 (D,F,G,S) G L Moore 5-9-10	Candy Morris	90
304	(14)	2320	CHADLEIGH LANE 13 (CD,BF,G) A Mulholland 5-9-10	M Birch	90
305	(6)	-405	BENTICO 47 (CD,F,G) Mrs N Macauley 8-9-9	G Faulkner (5)	92
306	(2)	5020	LEIGH CROFTER 33 (B,C,BF) P Cundell 8-9-9	D Holland	(3)
307	(1)	0-00	JOHNNIE THE JOKER 24 (C,F,G) J Leigh 6-9-6	D McKeown	92
308	(9)	000-	WINSTON 156 (D,F,G) J Bolton 4-9-7	S Drowne	91
309	(7)	00-1	SQUARE DEAL 24 (CD,G) S Bowring 6-9-2	S Webster	98
310	(5)	2015	PLEASURE TRICK 38 (B,CD,F,G) E Iacco 6-8-9	Kim Tinkler	91
311	(4)	-031	BARBARA'S JEWEL 9 (G) A Bailey 5-8-13	S Sanders	94
312	(13)	0214	BROUGHTON'S PRIDE 21 (CD,F,G) J Eyre 6-8-10	K Fallon	91
313	(8)	0552	MAJOR MOUSE 24 (CD,F,G) W Haigh 9-8-10	J Fortune	96
314	(11)	5600	DIMDIFTHEOLDONES 49 (CD,G) J Norton 5-8-0	G Carter	85
315	(3)	5/6-5	SILVER HARROW 32 (F) A Newcombe 4-7-12	J Quinn	89
316	(16)	0000	NOBLE CANDORE 9 (B,C,G) D Shaw 5-7-12	R Fitzroch (7)	84

6-1 Square Deal, 7-1 Broughton's Pride, Barbara's Jewel, 8-1 Leigh Crofter, 10-1 Bentico, Jibereen, Major Mouse, 14-1 others

3.45 LANCELOT LIMITED STAKES (£2,277: 7f) (16)

401	(14)	6521	FIRST GOLD 11 (CD,F,G,S) J Wharton 8-9-9	K Fallon	92
402	(13)	-423	JIGSAW BOY 40 (D,F,G,S) P Murphy 8-9-9	S Drowne	97
403	(1)	2502	NORTHERN FAN 11 (C,G) N Tinkler 5-9-9	D McKeown	91
404	(6)	3343	DESERT INVADER 24 (CD,G,S) D Chapman 6-9-7	A Culhane	98
505	(16)	6-00	FAILED TO HIT 75 (V,F) N Littmoden 4-9-7	T G McLaughlin	96
506	(4)	0045	JUBILEE SCHOLAR 9 (V) K McAuliffe 4-9-7	J F Egan	96
507	(5)	000-	ORIOLE 156 (D,F,S) E Iacco 4-9-7	Kim Tinkler	78
508	(7)	2462	SANDMOOR DENIM 7 (CD,F,S) S Bowring 10-9-7	F Norton	84
509	(12)	4-64	SURF CITY 70 W Haigh 4-9-7	S Whitworth	94
510	(8)	0643	SWEET MATE 21 (B,CD,BF,G) S Bowring 5-9-7	S Webster	89
511	(10)	3201	CATS BOTTOM 21 (C,F,G) A Newcombe 5-9-6	J Quinn	94
512	(11)	05-3	THE BARNSLEY BELLE 84 (CD,G) J Eyre 4-9-6	G Parkin	(3)
513	(3)	6100	JILLY BEVELED 7 (G) R Thompson 5-9-4	J Bramhill	(5)
514	(9)	46-0	KOALUCKY 21 (V,D,F,G) A Mulholland 5-9-4	M Birch	87
515	(3)	060-	OCTAVIA HILL 186 P Harris 4-9-4	A McGlone	86
516	(15)	4650	OUR KEVIN 12 (BF,D,G) B Pearce 7-8-7	G Bardwell	86

9-2 Jigsaw Boy, 5-1 First Gold, 7-1 Northern Fan, Cats Bottom, 8-1 The Barnsley Belle, Sandmoor Denim, 10-1 Desert Invader, 12-1 others.

4.15 HOLY GRAIL APPRENTICES SELLING STAKES (£2,095: 1m 4f) (11)

601	(3)	4044	EL MIDO 6 (CD,F,G,S) D Chapman 9-8-5	D Hayden (7)	86
602	(10)	1	GRAND CRU 38 (C,G) R Craggs 6-9-5	D Denby	91
603	(9)	-600	NO SUBMISSION 5 (B,C,S) D Chapman 11-8-5	C Cogan (5)	71
604	(1)	31-6	PHARLY DANCER 68 (CD,G,S) W Haigh 4-9-5	T Sprake	86
605	(9)	0400	CARROLLS MARC 9 (C,D) C Murray 9-8-13	A McCarthy	(3)
606	(11)	517	DURGAMS FIRST 569 (CD,F) Mrs M Reveley 5-8-13	P Fredericks (5)	69
607	(2)	0-62	ONE OFF THE RAIL 11 (D,F) G L Moore 7-8-13	M Batchelor (3)	(6)
608	(4)	6365	WORLD WITHOUT END 6 (V,S) M Sowersby 6-8-13	Victoria Appleby	71
609	(6)	00-0	BAILIWICK 9 (B,C,G) N Graham 4-8-12	T Reid	(5)
610	(5)	60-3	WHOTHEHELLISHARRY 52 P Dalton 4-8-12	C Lowther	(3)
611	(7)	5-40	ANOTHER QUARTER 38 (CD,F) M Chapman 4-8-7	P Bradley (7)	84

7-4 One Off The Rail, 5-1 Pharly Dancer, 6-1 El Nido, Durgams First, 8-1 Grand Cru, 14-1 No Submission, 16-1 others.

4.45 PERCEVAL HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,914: 1m 3f) (11)

1	(11)	-411	TOUCH'N'GO 37 (C,G) M Johnston 8-7	J Weaver	98
2	(6)	004-	PUSH A VENTURE 161 S Woods 9-4	C Webb (7)	96
3	(8)	102-	BONNE VILLE 129 (B) B Palling 9-2	T Sprake	91
4	(9)	0141	KINGSDOWN TROI 14 (G) G L Moore 9-2	R Perham	91
5	(2)	5-12	GRESATRE 6 (C,BF,G) C Dwyer 9-2	K Fallon	98
6	(3)	000-	PROPELLANT 166 C Thornton 9-0	D McKeown	93
7	(4)	-433	RED EMBERS 9 (G) C Dwyer 8-9	R Cochrane	93
8	(7)	-154	BROCTUNE LINE 12 (C,G) Mrs M Reveley 8-9	A Culhane	93
9	(10)	3334	SKELTON SOVEREIGN 7 (F) R Hollinshead 8-7	F Lynch (3)	97
10	(5)	0-03	MAREMMA 7 E Iacco 8-0	Kim Tinkler	–
11	(1)	000-	SAM PEEB 201 R Fahey 7-10	R Winston (7)	–

3-1 Kingsdown Troi, 7-2 Touch n'go, 6-1 Gresatre, Push A Venture, 8-1 others

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: Mrs M Reveley, 24 winners from 92 runners, 26.1%, G Wragg, 3 from 12, 25.0%, M Johnston, 50 from 221, 22.6%, M Jarvis, 4 from 18, 22.2%, P Harris, 3 from 18, 16.8%.

JOCKEYS: D Denby, 3 winners from 12 rides, 25.0%; D Holland, 22 from 105, 21.0%; J Weaver, 52 from 268, 19.4%; K Fallon, 21 from 120, 17.5%, M Hills, 6 from 35, 17.1%.

A National heritage too noble to sacrifice

ROB HUGHES



On the importance of running the great race

THE second attempt to run the 150th Grand National, scheduled for this evening, represents the only sensible course. It is, as everyone involved keeps repeating, a national sporting institution; two cheap and nasty telephone calls must not triumph over that.

But, far more important than the fact that maybe 10,000 people will enter the racecourse today, far more precious than the spectacle of up to 36 brave horses and riders in their fine silks, the freedom to express ourselves must be protected.

It is costing a fortune. It is taking riders and animals to the extremes for an event for which they peaked on Saturday. But sport is the *lingua franca* of the way in which our world can understand and tolerate one another's traditions. Those of us who attempt to write about it are no longer mere sports observers. Hillsborough, Heysel and Bradford took away that innocence; the bomb which killed two people at the Atlanta Olympic Park showed again that the sheer size and platform that sports now command on the world scale will regrettably attract trouble.

So, indubitably, the sport must go on, or else it becomes the first sacrifice. In the heat of Saturday night, when people became temporarily frenzied, to get past the security cordon and to retrieve their belongings inside the racecourse, I was struck by the simplicity, the articulacy of one extremely youthful guard. He may have been 17, little older than Joe Tizzard, the youngest rider entered for the National. And he cut through all argument with the phrase "a life's a life".

And it is the way we choose to live it that counts. Across the road from that altercation, in a crowd of sometimes elderly, sometimes extremely young and bewildered and stranded people, stood the erect figure of Bruce Hobbs. In 1938, when he had just turned 17, Hobbs became the youngest winner of the Grand National thus far. Amid the throng, with a shivering wind tugging at his clothing, Hobbs simply stood and waited, his eyes opaque, his past being tramped upon by some cowardly phonecaller.

Close to Hobbs was a charming, popular, still renowned former jockey. Jonjo O'Neill, now a trainer, was as confused but as resilient, as determined to beat this evil as anyone. He happens to be Irish, as do countless numbers of those who came to Aintree for sport on Saturday. I shall not forget, or particularly excuse, the misguided attempt at humour by Ginger McCain, the trainer of Red Rum, jibing O'Neill with "I'd appreciate it if you spoke in other than an Irish accent".

The Irish as a race do not deserve to bear the blame for the actions of a small, but vicious number of people who take such easy and destructive action.

Nearby, too, stood Gregory Peck, an American actor who had said earlier in the day that this was the best race in the world, that it beat Hollywood for substance. When 5 o'clock comes, please without further coded messages or anything worse, the runners and riders of the 1997 Grand National will represent a British spirit of defiance beyond anything that they have known before. It will be a strained and eerie atmosphere, but the will to conquer will be worth more than the £75 million apparently bet by a third of Britain's adult population. If we are honest, we should not expect anything approaching the quality of what Saturday came so very near to providing.

Some of the riders, leaving the track with only the silks that they wore, could be seen in the Adelphi Hotel in the early hours of Sunday. Their starvation diets were abandoned to drink, how else would virile young sportsmen enter the British spirit of everyone else around them? The horses, too, have suffered, despite the gallant efforts of Phil Sharp, the "lad" to Suny Bay, to refuse to leave his post, and to water as many as he could.

When the animals too were evacuated, most of them to nearby Haydock, they went with their different temperaments. Some were over agitated, some were calm, all bar two who were withdrawn yesterday seemed to share with their handlers, their trainers and riders, the spirit yesterday to shake off Saturday and to return this evening.

Thus, Peter O'Sullevan, the BBC commentator whose voice was silenced just as he began to read the runners and riders for his fiftieth, and final, National, should be in full mellifluous flow again tonight. That distinctive voice, almost Churchillian in tone, will sound for us all, the right to live as we choose. If it were otherwise, all sport, would be vulnerable and could be victims of malevolence: the London Marathon next Sunday, for example, would be virtually unsustainable, unpoliceable, if the coded call came. "Two lousy phonecalls," a senior officer of the Merseyside constabulary said, "that's all it took to threaten our lifestyle. Thank heavens, it's on again."

Closer still to the essence around Liverpool were the words of Charlie Brooks, the trainer of Suny Bay: "Not to run would be a real empty feeling, we want to run and shove it up them."

THE TIMES TOP TIPS

RICHARD EVANS	THUNDERER
1. ANTONIN	1. GENERAL WOLFE
2. General Wolfe	2. Avro Anson
3. Nahthen Lad	3. Suny Bay
4. Suny Bay	4. Lo Stregone
JULIAN MUSCAT	**FORM**
1. NAHTHEN LAD	1. SUNY BAY
2. Turning Trix	2. Go Ballistic
3. Antonin	3. Avro Anson
4. Lord Gyllene	4. Antonin
ROB HUGHES (Chief Sports Writer)	**GERALD HUBBARD (Private Handicapper)**
1. LORD GYLLENE	1. SUNY BAY
2. Smith's Band	2. Go Ballistic
3. Go Ballistic	3. Antonin
4. General Wolfe	4. Wylde Hide

5.00 MARTELL GRAND NATIONAL CHASE (BBC1)

(Handicap: grade III: £178,146: 4m 4f) (40 runners)

1	10/P32-P	**MASTER OATS 50 (BF,G,S)** (P Matthews) K Bailey 11-11-10	N Williamson	80
2	21-6P2P	**NAHTHEN LAD 25 (G,S)** (Mrs P Hemmings) Mrs J Pitman 8-10-9	J F Titley	80
3	214-335	**LO STREGONE 44 (BF,F,G,S)** (Mrs S Clegg) T Tate 11-10-4	G Bradley	81
4	F/1S1-51	**SUNY BAY 44 (G,S)** (Uplands Bloodstock) C Brooks 8-10-3	J Osborne	99
5	15-2605	**FEATHERED GALE 36 (F,G,S)** (M O'Connor) A L T Moore (Ire) 10-10-3	F Woods	81
6	2125-3U	**AVRO ANSON 65 (F,G)** (The Mirror Punters Club) M Camacho 9-10-2	P Niven	90
7	1F5/1P2	**BELMONT KING 30 (S)** (Mrs B Bond) P Nicholls 9-10-1	NON RUNNER	–
8	52/10-P0	**BUCKBOARD BOUNCE 9 (F,G,S)** (R Ogden) G Richards 11-10-1	P Carberry	80
9	01-241P	**BISHOPS HALL 30 (F,G,S)** (T Carroll) R Alner 11-10-1	M Richards	80
10	231112	**LORD GYLLENE 23 (BF,G,S)** (S Clarke) S Brookshaw 9-10-0	A Dobbin	87
11	11U-021	**WYLDE HIDE 36 (G,S)** (J McManus) A L T Moore (Ire) 10-10-0	C F Swan	93
12	5P114P	**DEXTRA DOVE 44 (F,G,S)** (Dextra Lighting Systems) S Earle 10-10-0	C Maude	82
13	30-1551	**ANTONIN 50 (F,G,S)** (G Bailey Ltd) Mrs S Bramall (Ire) 9-10-0	C O'Dwyer	94
14	11F12-P	**SMITH'S BAND 37 (G,S)** (A Smith) Mrs J Pitman 9-10-0	R Dunwoody	85
15	F11300	**NEW CO 26 (G,S)** (Exors of Mrs L Ronan) M Morris (Ire) 9-10-0	D J Casey	80
16	4121F4	**GO BALLISTIC 25 (F,G,S)** (Mrs B Lockhart) J O'Shea 8-10-0	M A Fitzgerald	97
17	11F2-14	**GENERAL WOLFE 30 (BF,G,S)** (Winning Line Racing) T Forster 8-10-0	L Wyer	84
18	4-12232	**GLEMOT 115 (BF,F,G,S)** (D Yardy) K Bailey 9-10-0	S McNeill	73
19	11-2553	**VALIANT WARRIOR 16 (F,G,S)** (P Sellars) M Hammond 9-10-0	R Garritty	68
20	5P5344	**KILLESHIN 23 (C,G,S)** (H Manners) H Manners 11-10-0	S Curran	75
21	50U-PP4	**MASTER BOSTON 4 (G,S)** (M Oldham) R Woodhouse 9-10-0	NON RUNNER	–
22	21-225U	**STRAIGHT TALK 135 (F,G,S)** (Mrs C Paterson) P Nicholls 10-10-0	Mr J Tizzard	72
23	P0F01P	**NUAFFE 40 (B,G,S)** (J Doyle) P Fahy (Ire) 12-10-0	T Mitchell	61
24	011-320	**NORTHERN HIDE 26 (F,G,S)** (Northern Hide Ptnrs) M Salaman 11-10-0	P Holley	74
25	P3-1441	**TURNING TRIX 37 (G,S)** (M Davies) D Nicholson 10-10-0	J R Kavanagh	79
26	12223F	**RIVER MANDATE 27 (V,G,S)** (Anne Duchess of Westminster) T Forster 10-10-0	A Thornton	75
27	45U5P0	**GRANGE BRAKE 27 (C,F,G,S)** (H Mould) N Twiston-Davies 11-10-0	D Walsh	76
28	321142	**EVANGELICA 81 (BF,F,S)** (M Pipe Racing Club) M Pipe 7-10-0	R Supple	68
29	554004	**BACK BAR 22 (G,S)** (P McCarthy) A L T Moore (Ire) 9-10-0	T P Treacy	66
30	4U0/240	**DAKYNS BOY 51 (G,S)** (A Parker) N Twiston-Davies 12-10-0	T J Murphy	70
31	554-05F	**SCRIBBLER 23 (G,S)** (M Farman) G McCourt 11-10-0	D Fortt	59
32	442/2-P4	**CELTIC ABBEY 25 (F,G,S)** (G Powell) Miss V Williams 9-10-0	B Powell	60
33	11-3F33	**FULL OF OATS 37 (BF,G,S)** (I MacDonald) Miss H Knight 11-10-0	J Culloty	67
34	0/5P-246	**CAMELOT KNIGHT 27 (S)** (M Gates) N Twiston-Davies 11-10-0	C Llewellyn	68
35	3P2-045	**MUGONI BEACH 45 (B,BF,F,G,S)** (J Ennis) M Pipe 12-10-0	J Evans	66
36	U223-36	**PLASTIC SPACEAGE 51 (G,S)** (G Dalziel) J Old 14-10-0	DOUBTFUL	66
37	1340-60	**OVER THE STREAM 21 (F,G)** (J Gordon & E Gordon) Miss M Milligan 11-10-0	DOUBTFUL	59
38	35P/1FP-	**DON'T LIGHT UP 349 (B,G,S)** (I Naylor) Miss V Williams 11-10-0	Mr R Thornton	58
39	32-10P6	**PINK GIN 38 (F,G,S)** (Mrs M Francis) M Hammond 10-10-0	Mr C Bonner	58
40	533B33	**SPUFFINGTON 30 (G,S)** (J Clopet) J Gifford 9-10-0	P Hide	58

Long handicap: Lord Gyllene 9-13, Wylde Hide 9-13, Dextra Dove 9-13, Antonin 9-13, Smith's Band 9-10, New Co 9-9, Go Ballistic 9-8, General Wolfe 9-8, Glemot 9-7, Valiant Warrior 9-6, Killeshin 9-3, Master Boston 9-3, Straight Talk 9-2, Nuaffe 9-2, Northern Hide 9-0, Turning Trix 8-12, River Mandate 8-12, Grange Brake 8-12, Evangelica 8-10, Back Bar 8-10, Dakyns Boy 8-9, Scribbler 8-8, Celtic Abbey 8-7, Full Of Oats 8-6, Camelot Knight 8-6, Mugoni Beach 8-4, Plastic Spaceage 8-2, Over The Stream 8-2, Don't Light Up 8-2, Pink Gin 8-0, Spuffington 8-0.

BETTING: 9-1 Suny Bay, Lord Gyllene, Wylde Hide, 10-1 Avro Anson, Go Ballistic, Smith's Band, 14-1 Feathered Gale, General Wolfe, Lo Stregone, Antonin, 18-1 Nahthen Lad, 25-1 Buckboard Bounce, Turning Trix, 33-1 Dextra Dove, Killeshin, Master Oats, 40-1 New Co, Northern Hide, 50-1 Bishops Hall, Evangelica, Glemot, River Mandate, Straight Talk, 66-1 others.

1996: ROUGH QUEST 10-10-7 M A Fitzgerald (7-1 fav) T Casey 27 ran

KELSO

THUNDERER

2.00 Jessolle	3.30 Ask Me Later
2.30 Gallants Delight	4.00 Astraleon
3.00 COQUI LANE (nap)	4.30 Royal Jester
	5.00 Maitre De Musique

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.00 JESSOLLE.

Carl Evans: 2.30 Gallants Delight. 4.30 Royal Jester.

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113743 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 . . . . . B West (7) 88

Racecard number Six-figure form (F — fell, P — pulled up U — unseated rider B — brought down S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified) Horse's name Days since last outing: F U Bar (B — blinkers V — visor H — hood E — Eyeshield, C — course winner, D — distance winner CD — course and distance winner BF — beaten favourite in latest race) Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy) Owner in brackets Trainer Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance The Times. Private Handicapper's rating

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS

2.00 CHEVIOT RENTALS MODULAR MARQUEES NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (£2,871: 2m 110yd) (13 runners)

1	112-433	ARCTIC SANDY 35 (BF,F) (R Anderson Green) J Diver 7-11-0	B Storey	84
2	0/060-0P	CHAIN LINE 9 (J Aynsley) J Aynsley 7-11-0	T Reed	–
3	3-004P3	DANTES AMOUR 7 (Wetherby Racing) M Hammond 6-11-0	D Bentley	76
4	R0433	EASTCLIFFE 14 (Mrs L McKeown) W McKeown 5-11-0	G Cahill	–
5		KINGS ADVENTURE (R Armstrong) B Mactaggart 5-11-0	G Lee (3)	–
6	00-3300	NICK ROSS 14 (R Brewis) R Brewis 6-11-0	A S Smith	78
7	63-5040	PENTLANDS FLYER 51 (Mrs M Bird) H Johnson 5-11-0	C McCormack (7)	82
8	0-03235	PENTLAND SQUIRE 14 (BF) (D Wilks) J Jelleson 6-11-0	R Guest	85
9	P434F0	AMBER HOLLY 25 (Mrs E Dixon) J Dixon 5-10-9	F Perratt	74
10	05003	JESSOLLE 16 (C Flint) G Richards 5-10-9	R Burns (7)	88
11	0430	SALEM BEACH 53 (S Marsby) M Todhunter 5-10-9	J Callaghan	–
12	9	CAULKER 17 (T Barnes) M Barnes 4-10-8	S Taylor (5)	–
13	06	POLITICAL MANDATE 38 (G Nixon) R Nixon 4-10-3	F Leahy (3)	–

BETTING: 5-2 Jessolle, 11-4 Pentland Squire, 6-1 Arctic Sandy, 7-1 Eastcliffe, 10-1 Dantes Amour, 12-1 others

1996: BALHERNOCH 7-11-8 P Niven (11-10 fav) T Easterby 9 ran

FORM FOCUS

ARCTIC SANDY 4l 3rd of 7 to Urban Dancing in novice chase at Musselburgh (2m, good to firm) on penultimate start. DANTES AMOUR about 4l 3rd of 11 to Our Robert in selling hurdle at Market Rasen (2m 1f 110yd, good to firm). EASTCLIFFE 17l 3rd of 20 to Bold Statement in National Hunt flat race at Catterick (2m, good) on penultimate start. NICK ROSS 14l 3rd of 15 to Dana Point in novice hurdle over course and distance (good). Dec 96. PENTLAND SQUIRE 6l 2nd of 16 to Alabang in novice hurdle at Newcastle (2m, good). Dec 96

Selection: NICK ROSS

2.30 HOLLAND & HOLLAND BUCCLEUCH CUP MAIDEN HUNTERS CHASE

(Amateurs: £2,081. 3m 1f) (12 runners)

1	2P1-2	CAMSTER CASTLE 16P (F) (Miss Z Green) Miss Z Green 9-12-0	R Shiels (5)	–
2	U	COOL YULE 16P (R Thomson) R Thomson 9-12-0	B Gibson (7)	–
3	11-2?	ENSIGN EWART 16P (F,S) (M Sample) C Storey 6-12-0	C Storey (5)	–
4	P/5FU	HULA 16P (P Scott Plummer) Miss F Wilson 9-12-0	M Bradburne (7)	–
5	1C	LEANNES MAN 9P (G) (Mrs G Reed) W Reed 8-12-0	Chris Wilson (7)	–
6	43U1	LINDON RUN 7P (F,G) (T Donaldson) K Robson 8-12-0	R Morgan (7)	–
7	0P-	LOTHIAN COMMODORE 384 (D Whitaker) G Richards 7-12-0	A Dobbin (7)	–
8	0/P-3	PENNINE VIEW 9P (F,G,S) (J Dixon) J Dixon 10-12-0	R Ford (5)	–
9	-P621	STORM ALIVE 30P (S) (Mrs R Arthur) Mrs R Arthur 6-12-0	T Scott (7)	–
10	0FPP-56	TUMLIN OOT 21 (Mrs H Fraser) J Haldane 8-12-0	N Wilson (5)	–
11	-F121	GALLANTS DELIGHT 22P (G,S) Mrs C Johnston 7-11-9	A Robson (7)	–
12	4F-3F	SEYMOUR FIDDLES 16P (J Seymour) J Seymour 6-11-9	Mrs C Amos (7)	–

BETTING: 7-2 Lothian Commodore, 4-1 Pennine View, 9-2 Storm Alive, 5-1 Gallants Delight, 6-1 Ensign Ewart, 12-1 Leannes Man, 12-1 Camster Castle, 16-1 others.

1996: ABERCROMBY COMET 11-11-7 Miss S Forster (7-1) S Shirley-Beavan 11 ran

FORM FOCUS

ENSIGN EWART beat Bit Of Blether 2l in open race at Friars Haugh (3m, good to firm). LEANNES MAN beat Solwaysands 10l in open race at Corbridge (3m, good) on penultimate start. LINDON RUN beat Harden Glen 3l in open race at Tranwell (3m, good). PENNINE VIEW beat Romney Mill 20l in open race at Whitlingdon (3m, good to soft). STORM ALIVE dead-heated with Arm Ah Man in open race at Dalston (3m, good to soft)

Selection: LEANNES MAN

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Runs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
G M Moore	13	59	22.0	Mr M Bradburne	5	12	41.7
M Hammond	23	108	21.3	Mr C Storey	6	23	26.1
Mrs A Swinbank	4	19	21.1	J Callaghan	13	58	20.7
G Richards	24	116	20.7	B Storey	29	177	16.4
J Johnson	16	82	19.5	R Guest	6	52	11.5

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3.00 GLENGOYNE HIGHLAND MALT NOVICES CHASE

(£4,111: 3m 1f) (8 runners)

1	3P3212	COQUI LANE 17 (G,S) (J Dun) J Dun 10-11-8	D Parker	88
2	04-1360	GERMAN LEGEND 7 (F) (D Pryde) D Lamb 7-11-8	J Burke	–
3	01-F123	REAL TONIC 17 (C,BF,G) (R Ogden) G Richards 7-11-8	A Ogden (7)	89
4	3051	MISS COLETTE 29 (F,G) (R Donaldson) Mrs D Thomson 9-11-3	M Foster	72
5	F66523	COOL WEATHER 7 (B) (F MacDonagh) P Cheesbrough 9-11-2	A S Smith	72
6	03F544	FINE TUNE 23 (Border Rfrs) S Bradburne 7-11-2	M Bradburne (7)	65
7	P-2F4PP	MARSICA 62 (Mrs P Oliver) N Doyle 7-11-2	N Smith	89
8	006-32F	TALL MEASURE 110 (F) (D Swindelhurst) D Swindelhurst 11-11-2	B Storey	–

BETTING: 9-4 Real Tonic, 3-1 Coqui Lane, 7-1 German Legend, Miss Colette, Cool Weather, Fine Tune, 8-1 others

1996: HOWCLEUCH 5-10-11 B Storey (4-1 fav) J Oliver 11 ran

FORM FOCUS

COQUI LANE 1l 2nd of 5 to San Di Ins in handicap chase over course and distance (good). REAL TONIC 7l 3rd of 9 to American Hero in novice chase here (2m 1f, good). MISS COLETTE beat COOL WEATHER (6lb better off) 6l in 7-runner novice chase at Sedgefield (3m 5f, good to firm). COOL WEATHER 12½l 3rd of 6 to Kings Sermon in novice handicap chase at Wetherby (3m 1f, good). FINE TUNE best effort 17l 5th of 11 to Mister Trick in novice handicap chase at Musselburgh (3m, good) Feb 97. TALL MEASURE 4l 2nd of 11 to Lakin Leader in selling handicap hurdle at Ayr (2m 4f, good) on penultimate start.

Selection: COQUI LANE

3.30 PAT DE CLERMONT HANDICAP CHASE

(£3,218: 3m 1f) (9 runners)

1	1-P0P34	WHAAT FETTLE 17 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Ashleybank Ltd) G Richards 12-12-0	A Dobbin	88
2	521155	BARNTOWN BILL 35 (V,D,BF,F,G,S) (E Scarth) M Pipe 8-11-3	D Walsh	90
3	020252	GALE AHEAD 7 (CD,F,G) (J Robson) G Moore 7-10-13	M Foster	98
4	1-P61PP	HURRICANE ANDREW 54 (D,F,S) (J Moore) J Moore 9-10-4	N Smith	87
5	5/3-4212	ASK ME LATER 30 (BF,G,S) (T Hardie) Mrs S Bradburne 8-10-3	G Cahill	88
6	RJ31U1	NUWAY 7 (F,G,S) (T Barnes) M Barnes 7-10-0 (5ex)	B Storey	96
7	PP3PP3	SNOOK POINT 25 (G) (J Jordon) D Lamb 10-10-0	J Burke	88
8	304295	FORWARD GLEN 54 (B,F) (P Cheesbrough) P Cheesbrough 10-10-0	A S Smith	87
9	6/600	FESTIVAL FANCY 9 (G,S) (M McGovern) B Mactaggart 10-10-0	G Lee (3)	62

Long handicap: Nuway 9-11, Snook Point 9-7, Forward Glen 9-5, Festival Fancy 8-12.

BETTING: 3-1 Whaat Fettle, Ask Me Later, 4-1 Gale Ahead, 5-1 Nuway, 6-1 Barntown Bill, 12-1 Hurricane Andrew, Forward Glen, 14-1 others

1996: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS

BARNTOWN BILL best effort beat Mazzeno 11l in 7-runner handicap chase at Taunton (3m, good) Jan 97. GALE AHEAD best effort 4l 2nd of 8 to Celtic Silver in handicap chase at Newcastle (3m, good). Feb 97. HURRICANE ANDREW best effort beat FORWARD GLEN (4lb better off) ¾l in 7-runner handicap chase at Musselburgh (3m, good to firm). Dec 96 ASK ME LATER 5l 2nd of 7 to Nicolgan in handicap chase at Ayr (3m 1f, soft). NUWAY beat GALE AHEAD (1lb better off) 2½l in 10-runner handicap chase at Carlisle (3m, good). SNOOK POINT 19l 3rd of 12 to Culzean Lake in handicap chase at Hexham (2m 4f 110yd, good)

Selection: GALE AHEAD (nap)

4.00 E SCARTH & SON HANDICAP HURDLE

(£2,788 2m 110yd) (4 runners)

1	525525	DONE WELL 117 (D,F,G) (A Melville) P Monteith 5-11-11	B Storey	98
2	131/13-	ASTRALEON 520 (CD,F,G) (A Dunlop) R Allan 9-10-13	S Melrose (7)	87
3	155402	WELL APPOINTED 7 (F) (Drumlanrig Racing) B Mactaggart 8-10-1	G Lee (3)	89
4	R1-2F30	KILLBALLY BOY 23 (D,G) (Everaldo Partners) H Johnson 7-10-0	C McCormack (7)	86

Long handicap: Killbally Boy 9-1

BETTING: 6-4 Done Well, 9-4 Well Appointed, 3-1 Astraleon, 9-2 Killbally Boy

1996: BALLON 6-10-5 B Storey (3-1) M Dods 4 ran

FORM FOCUS

DONE WELL 3½l 2nd of 10 to Cerzac Lane in handicap hurdle at Newcastle (2m, good) on penultimate start. ASTRALEON beat Innocent George 15l in 5-runner handicap hurdle at Newcastle (3m, firm) on penultimate start. WELL APPOINTED 4l 2nd of 8 to Monsane Forte in handicap hurdle at Carlisle (2m 1f, good). KILLBALLY BOY 16l 3rd of 7 to Twin Falls in novice chase at Catterick (2m 3f, good to soft) on penultimate start

Selection: ASTRALEON

4.30 STEFES CHAMPION HUNTERS CHASE

(Amateurs: £2,736. 3m 1f) (5 runners)

1	5-C11	DARK DAWN 30P (F,G,S) (Mrs J Nixon) Mrs J Nixon 13-12-7	Miss Lorna Foston (7)	92
2	421402	KUSHBALOO 27 (CD,BF,F,G) (R Anderson Green) C Parker 12-12-7	A Parker (7)	98
3	4FP-P42	LITTLE WENLOCK 21 (F,S) (Mrs D Gibson) Mrs D Gibson 13-12-0	Mrs V Jackson (5)	93
4	P00/425-	NOW YOUNG MAN 518 (F,S) (E Mitchell) Mrs A Swinbank 8-12-0	Chris Wilson (7)	–
5	2-222	ROYAL JESTER 17 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs A Wauchope) C Storey 13-12-0	C Storey (5)	89

BETTING: 2-1 Royal Jester, 11-4 Kushbaloo, 4-1 Little Wenlock, 9-2 Dark Dawn, 5-1 Now Young Man.

1996: ROYAL JESTER 12-11-9 C Storey (5-2) Mrs J Storey 11 ran

FORM FOCUS

DARK DAWN beat Carole's Delight 1l in open race at Charm Park (3m, good to firm). KUSHBALOO 1l 2nd to Glen Oak in hunter chase at Sedgefield (3m 3f, good to firm). LITTLE WENLOCK ¾l 2nd to Final Hope in hunter chase at Newcastle (3m, good to firm). NOW YOUNG MAN 16¾l 5th to Adnen in handicap hurdle at Carlisle (3m, good to firm). ROYAL JESTER 7l 2nd to Jigtime in hunter chase here (3m 4f, good)

Selection: ROYAL JESTER

5.00 CROALL BRYSON HANDICAP HURDLE

(£2,840 2m 6f 110yd) (9 runners)

1	1-40806	MASTER HYDE 14 (F) (D Callaghan) R Allan 8-11-10	B Storey	90
2	5-05636	OLD HABITS 9 (F) (Steles Plant Protection) J Eyre 8-11-9	C Elliott (7)	91
3	045-644	MASTER OF TROY 32 (C,F,G,S) (A Stewart) C Parker 9-11-8	D Parker	94
4	30-5542	MAITRE DE MUSIQUE 14 (S) (R Ogden) M Todhunter 6-11-3	C McCormack (7)	89
5	5-32F61	CASH BOX 17 (CD,G) (T Watson) T Carr 9-10-10	N Smith	98
6	31122-4	RASCALLY 14 (G) (J Toomson) Miss L Siddall 7-10-10	–	91
7	3FP40-P	MULLINGAR 124 (F) (P Greene) Miss Z Green 8-10-9	K Johnson	–
8	050140	DOCKMASTER 25 (G,S) (J Gordon) Mrs M Milligan 6-10-8	A S Smith	93
9	0000-00	ALLERBY 9 (F) (Greenall) J Goulding 9-10-0	B Grattan (5)	80

Long handicap: Allerby 9-12

BETTING: 6-4 Maitre De Musique, 9-2 Dockmaster, 5-1 Master Of Troy, 6-1 Cash Box, 7-1 Old Habits, 8-1 Master Hyde, 10-1 Rascally, 16-1 others

1996: ERZADJAN 6-11-6 P Niven (11-8) Mrs M Reveley 10 ran

FORM FOCUS

MASTER HYDE 15l 12th of 19 to Mr Moriarty in handicap hurdle at Catterick (2m good) on penultimate start. OLD HABITS best effort 6¾l 3rd of 9 to Here Comes Herbie in handicap hurdle at Musselburgh (2m 4f, good) on penultimate start. MAITRE DE MUSIQUE 1¼l 2nd of 17 to Enchanted Cottage in handicap hurdle at Hexham (2m 4f 110yd, soft). CASH BOX beat Mayo Harris 1¼l in 15-runner handicap hurdle over course and distance (good). RASCALLY best effort 7l 2nd of 12 to Daisy Days in novice hurdle at Hexham (2m 4f 110yd, good) May 96, with CASH BOX (7lb worse off) 19¾l 5th. DOCKMASTER best effort beat Flat Top 19¾l in 20-runner handicap hurdle at Newcastle (3m, good). Feb 97

Selection: DOCKMASTER

COMPREHENSIVE BIG-RACE FORM GUIDE

MASTER OATS

Feb 16, Punchestown see Antonin.

Feb 11, 1996, Ludgershall, yielding to soft (12-0) 6l 2nd to Imperial Call (12-0) with Nuaffe pulled up 10th (3m, grade I ch, £50,258, 8 ran).

NAHTHEN LAD

Mar 13, Cheltenham, see Go Ballistic.

Feb 15, Chepstow, soft (11-12) 6l 2nd to Air Shot (11-0) (2m 3f 110yd, ch, £6,775, 5 ran).

Jan 18, Haydock: see Avro Anson.

LO STREGONE

Feb 22, Haydock see Suny Bay.

Jan 17, Kelso, good, (11-11) 12l 3rd to Seven Towers (10-0) with Pink Gin (10-0) 10¾l 11th and Full Of Oats (10-0) fell 17th (4m, hcap ch, £20,903, 13 ran)

Nov 30, 1996, Newbury, good: (11-0) 16l 3rd to Coome Hill (10-0) with Dextra Dove (10-1) 33½l 5th, Feathered Gale (10-11) further 18l 6th and Grange Brake (9-12) 3rd when unseating last (3m 2f 110yd, grade III hcap ch, £48,283, 11 ran).

SUNY BAY

Feb 22, Haydock, good, (10-8) beat Invo The Red (10-0) 13l with Lo Stregone (10-9) 49½l 5th (3m 4l 110yd, grade III hcap ch, £50,256, 6 ran)

Nov 20, 1996, Kempton, good to soft (11-7) 38l 5th to Trying Again (11-3) (3m 4l 110yd, hcap ch, £4,715, 7 ran).

Mar 23, 1996, Newbury, soft (11-12) beat Do Be Brief (10-8) 13l with Turning Trix (11-3) 16l 3rd (3m, hcap ch, £7,064, 7 ran)

FEATHERED GALE

Mar 2, Leopardstown: see Wylde Hide

Dec 27, Leopardstown: see New Co.

Nov 30, 1996, Newbury: see Lo Stregone.

AVRO ANSON

Feb 1, Sandown: see Dextra Dove.

Jan 18, Haydock, good to firm: (10-7) ¾l 3rd to Jodami (11-10) with Nahthen Lad (11-4) pulled up before 14th and Grange Brake (10-7) pulled up before 4 out (3m, grade II hcap ch, £24,776, 6 ran).

BELMONT KING

Mar 8, Chepstow, good to soft (12-0) 7l 2nd to Giventime (10-01) with Spuffington (10-2) 6l 3rd, General Wolfe (11-12) distance 4th, Bishops Hall (12-0) pulled up 3 out (3m 2f 110yd, hcap ch, £8,432, 7 ran)

Dec 7, 1996, Chepstow, good to soft, (10-8) beat Trying Again (11-1) 1¼l with Grange Brake (10-5) 16½l 5th (3m, hcap ch, £18,822, 7 ran)

BUCKBOARD BOUNCE

Mar 29, Carlisle, good to soft: (12-0) 33l 8th of 12 to Swanbister (10-9) (2m 4f, hcap hdle, £2,885, 12 ran)

BISHOPS HALL

Mar 8, Chepstow: see Belmont King

Mar 30, 1996, Liverpool see Antonin

LORD GYLLENE

Mar 15, Uttoxeter, good: (11-10) 7l 2nd to Seven Towers (10-8) with Killeshin (10-13) further 12l 4th and Scribbler (10-0) fell 3 out (4m 2f, grade III, hcap ch, £30,867, 10 ran).

Feb 8, Uttoxeter, good, (11-9) beat Mudahim (11-2) 8l 4th (4m 2f, hcap ch, £24,137, 9 ran)

WYLDE HIDE

Mar 2, Leopardstown, soft, (11-9) beat Monalee River (10-12) 4½l with Feathered Gale (12-0) 30½l last (2m 5l, hcap ch, £6,850, 5 ran).

Dec 27, 1996, Leopardstown: see New Co

Mar 30, 1996, Liverpool, see Antonin.

DEXTRA DOVE

Feb 22, Kempton, good (11-3) pulled up 15th to Mudahim (10-2) (3m, grade III, hcap ch, £30,380, 9 ran)

Feb 1, Sandown, good to firm (11-2) beat Northern Hide (10-5) 2½l with Avro Anson (11-8) unseating rider 11th and Go Ballistic (11-0) fell 18th (3m 110yd, hcap ch, £24,059, 8 ran).

ANTONIN

Feb 16, Punchestown, soft: (10-0) beat King Of The Gales (10-6) distance with Master Oats (12-0) pulled up 3 out (3m 2l, hcap ch, £20,500, 9 ran)

Dec 27, 1996, Leopardstown see New Co

Nov 7, 1996, Clonmel, yielding to soft (12-0) 25½l 5th to Royal Mountbrowne (11-7) with Nuaffe (12-0) 36l 8th (2m 4l, grade II, ch, £12,900, 8 ran)

Mar 30, 1996, Liverpool, good (10-0) 49l 8th to Rough Quest (10-7) with Over The Stream (10-0) 87l 13th, Bishops Hall (10-1) unseated 1st and Wylde Hide (10-0) unseated 24th (4m 4l, grade III, hcap ch, 27 ran).

SMITH'S BAND

Mar 1, Newbury see Turning Trix.

Jan 20, 1996, Haydock, soft: (10-7) ½l 2nd to Scotton Banks (11-6) (3m, grade II, hcap ch, £18,570, 6 ran)

NEW CO

Mar 12, Cheltenham see Northern Hide

Jan 23, Gowran Park, good (10-5) 3l 3rd to Couldni Be

ROWING: HOW SCALED-DOWN BOATS ARE GIVING YOUNGSTERS A HEAD START IN SCULLING

Headington girls take to the water

BY JOHN GOODBODY



Andrea Lomas, 13, right, and Claire Painter, 14, of Headington School, Oxford, in purpose-built sculls. Photograph: Adrian Sherratt

SPORT IN SCHOOLS

MANY sports are better taught to youngsters by using small-sized equipment or pitches. Youngsters do not have the physique or ability to learn correct skills on the facilities and implements of adults.

It has long been the accepted practice to coach football on small-sided pitches. Athletics has lighter weights for the throwing events. Cricket has smaller bats, balls, stumps and pitches, while tennis has a popular version of the game — short tennis.

Rowing, too, is adapting. Headington School, Oxford, is extremely unusual in having purpose-built boats, which are shorter, narrower and lighter, for their pupils to learn sculling. Girls as young as 11 years old are acquiring the necessary skills in scaled-down versions of full-sized boats.

Cathy Partridge, Headington's director of coaching, said: "Traditionally, youngsters started to learn in what looked like bath tubs. They were sculling with their arms round their ears and then almost had to relearn the skills when they got into racing boats."

The Amateur Rowing Association prohibits actual rowing until girls are 16 years old, because otherwise it might hamper their long-term physical development. However, sculling is encouraged. So the Headington girls acquire the necessary technique suitable for children as light as 35kg. The boats are smaller, with the rigging narrower.

Partridge said: "Girls of that size do not have the height or arm-span to use adult boats or oars. By using smaller equipment, you get them to row the correct length of stroke."

The girls are initially taught in the school's swimming pool to learn the basic balance and water skills. They then transfer to Hinksey Lake, outside Oxford.

Partridge said: "Safety is at a premium. Before anyone starts, they have to be able to swim 100 metres. While on the lake they are always within 45 seconds of an adult."

Only after this initial training are they allowed on the river. They can then attend any of the seven weekly sessions under the supervision of the four-strong coaching team. Andrea Lomas, 13, and Claire Painter, 14, have been sculling for two years. Andrea particularly likes being in quads. "There are so many people. It is like a team," she said.

Claire has become so enthusiastic about the activity that she has her own rowing machine at home. "I would like to do really well in the sport," she said. "My mum is keen for me to do well academically, but I believe I can do both."

Headington began the sport in 1992, largely because the girls pointed out that there was a river nearby that they were not using. Some of the money for the small boats was raised through Sportsmatch, the government funding scheme.

Last year only Lady Eleanor Holles, in Middlesex, of girls' schools, finished ahead of Headington in the medals table at the national rowing championships. Headington has also provided four members for the British junior squad. One is Tamsin Roberts, 16, who began sculling at the school. "I felt that other sports weren't really me. The success I enjoyed in sculling motivated me," she said.

She admits that she does not find training "the nicest thing". Tamsin still exercises 14 hours a week, either on the river or using weights and ergometers.

"However you have to do it to get the results," she said. "Some other girls think we must be mad to row when there is only the odd victory now and then. However, it means so much more to you when you win events."

King's College School, Wimbledon, will return to London this week after a series of successes in perhaps the world's largest rowing regatta, the Maadi Cup, in New Zealand. KCS, top of the medals table in the 1996 British schools rowing championships, won four titles in an event that attracted 1,600 competitors from New Zealand, Australia, the United States and the United Kingdom. KCS finished first in the under-15 coxed quad, under-16 coxed quad, under-19 coxed quad and the under-19 coxed four, and was also second in two other events.

Anglers cannot afford climate of indifference

Brian Clarke on the lethal downward spiral caused by prolonged drought

Eight years of drought and their likely effect on water supplies have been much in the news. Few anglers understand the implications for their sport. The start of a new trout season, after the two driest years since records began, seems a good time to make them plain. Profound changes, for game anglers especially, are under way.

Rainfall figures are a matter of record. Many upland rivers are squeezing between the stones. More insidiously, the underground aquifers — the great, cavernous sponges that give rise to the springs that feed rivers and lakes in much of the South and East — are at an historical low just when they should be at their fullest.

Such rain as falls this year is unlikely to help, even in the short term. It is winter rain that counts. Summer rain is mostly taken up by plants and evaporated by the sun. At the same time, as usual in summer, demand for water will soar. Reservoirs look set to shrink within their cracked-tile margins. Abstraction will suck more from the already parched ground.

A lethal downward spiral, for this year at least, looks inevitable. All water life is going to feel the effect. Anglers, especially those who fish for cold-water species such as trout, will see a deadly scramble for life from close up.

> 'All water life will be involved in deadly scramble'

The progression will be most evident on rivers. Falling water levels will mean fewer places where fish can live. Competition for the best places — and then for any places at all — will increase. Fish unable to find lies that can provide them with sufficient food and security will weaken and die.

As water levels continue to fall, the remaining fish will retreat into the deeper pools, where they will become vulnerable to poachers and predators. In particular, fish losses to cormorants on shrinking waters could be locally catastrophic.

Through it all, farming will go on and, as a result, more chemicals will be sprayed onto the land. Little by little they will leach into the water, less diluted. The insects that many fish eat, having already been thinned by their own shrinking habitat, will take a second hit from poisons. The fish will now not only have less space, but less food.

Summer, if it is a typical summer, will move on. As the weather warms, so the water will warm — and as the water warms, so the levels of oxygen dissolved in it will drop. Now, fish being jammed together in exposed places with an inadequate food supply will begin to have breathing problems.

Without substantial heavy rain and unseasonably dull, cold weather, the spiral will quicken. Hot, sunny weather and less dilution for fertilizers will see the power of modern chemicals at work, not only on crops but also on plant life in the water, and significantly on algae.

Dense growths of blanket weed, a suffocating algae that can, in such conditions, fill a river from bed to surface and bank to bank, will result. When night falls, algae will stop pouring out the oxygen that photosynthesis has produced and carbon dioxide levels in the water will rise. The breathing problems of fish such as trout will intensify and, in extreme cases, fish will die.

As if this appalling scenario was not enough, other, subtle changes already begun on many rivers will spread. Reduced water velocities will mean more silt on the stream bed. More silt and reduced flows will lead to changes in plant life. Changes in plant life, increased silt and reduced oxygen levels will lead to changes in insect populations and to steep declines in the species that have traditionally formed the basis of the fly-fisher's art.

If this summer follows the pattern of those of late, all of these changes will be seen this season. If the drought and warm summers continue, as experts predict, anglers will find themselves looking not only at the occasional dire year, but also at a very different kind of sport. Warm-water fish, such as carp, will thrive. Trout fishing will, quite literally, dry up.

Through it all, angling's representative bodies have vital roles to play. The Anglers' Conservation Association — the sport's legal arm — is going to be busier than ever. The Salmon and Trout Association, as the most active political lobby, and the National Federation of Anglers, which has the most members, will need to make their new-found single voice piercingly heard. Special-interest groups, among them the recently formed Wild Trout Society, will need to attack and harry.

Above all, the role of the Environment Agency (EA), which this month marks its first anniversary, is going to be critical. The EA combines the responsibilities of the former National Rivers Authority (NRA) with pollution and waste regulation. It is now responsible for the quality of air, land and water together.

The NRA, which focused solely on water, managed for all its imperfections to get to grips with many of the issues that are vital to anglers. It brought science and, on occasion, real clout to bear. Since it was first mooted, anglers have feared that the EA's wider and often competing responsibilities will cause it to lose the focus on fisheries that the NRA achieved.

The EA itself must ensure that this does not happen. Anglers, who fund the EA's fisheries function, have a right to expect it not to happen.

In the world we are facing, stocks everywhere are going to need all the help they can get. Everyone concerned with fisheries is going to have to be on their toes. The changing climate will prove challenge enough.

❑ *Brian Clarke's angling column appears on the first Monday of each month.*

BASKETBALL

Leicester quick to repay Donewald

BY NICHOLAS HARLING

IF EVER there was vindication for foresight, it came with the qualification of Leicester Riders for the Budweiser League play-offs. Just 48 hours after he had signed a two-year extension to his contract as coach, Bob Donewald steered them into eighth place and two meetings next weekend with Leopards, the champions.

"I made up my mind some time ago that I wanted Bob to stay," Kevin Routledge, the Leicester chairman, said. "I like the way the guys play for him and I like the way he works."

Under Donewald, 27, easily the league's youngest coach, Leicester had competed for the best part of the season with Derby Storm for the last place in the play-offs. When Derby beat the Riders a fortnight ago, it looked as though their East Midlands rivals would go through but, with the Storm defeated 91-80 at home by Sheffield Sharks on Saturday, Leicester were able to celebrate their own 96-94 victory over Birmingham Bullets.

"We're delighted and excited to be there," Donewald said. "We've not even come close to beating the Leopards this season so we know it's going to be tough, but at least we've fulfilled our ambitions by getting this far."

Leon McGee, with 31 points, was Leicester's leading scorer, but the most courageous act came from Justine Phoenix, who collected 16 points — and the last decisive rebound — only two hours after having a plaster cast removed from his right hand. He had even gone to the consultants in his kit, ready to play. "Considering that he was in pain he played extremely well," Donewald said.

The Riders had come from 70-57 down and were still 92-89 adrift going into the last two minutes when McGee, Phoenix and Gene Waldron came up with the all-important baskets to leave both the game's outstanding marksmen, Nigel Lloyd, who scored 32 points, and Tony Dorsey, who scored 28, among the vanquished.

Jimmy Ratliff experienced the same fate for the Storm, whose coach, Jeff Jones, might not now enjoy the kind of job security afforded Donewald. Mike Horton, the Derby chairman, is known to be extremely ambitious.

With the help of 30 points from the prolific James Hamilton, Worthing Bears compensated for their failure to reach the play-offs for the first time in seven years by beating Chester Jets — who have qualified for the first time — 83-76.

SNOOKER: WELSHMAN TRIUMPHS AS WORLD CHAMPION BLAMES BURN-OUT

Williams keeps Hendry out of frame

BY PHIL YATES

STEPHEN HENDRY fell victim to his own consistency and the refusal of Mark Williams to be intimidated by reputation when he suffered a surprise defeat in the final of the British Open at Plymouth on Saturday.

Hendry's 9-2 reversal was his heaviest in a final, eclipsing 10-4 defeats by Jimmy White at the 1991 Mercantile Classic and Steve Davis at the 1993 European Open. It also ended a sequence of 11 successful final appearances for the Scot stretching back to the Benson and Hedges Irish Masters of 1995.

While Hendry laid the blame squarely at the door of competitive fatigue, there was no hint of sour grapes. Hendry magnanimously described Williams as "a phenomenal talent", but did not allow the occasion to pass without criticising what he regards as an unreasonable tournament calendar.

Hendry, winner of the Liverpool Victoria Charity Challenge, Regal Welsh Open, International Open and Irish Masters during the first three months of the year, had also figured in two quarter-finals and a semi-final before travelling to Plymouth.

"There was nothing left in the tank," Hendry said. "I've played an awful lot of snooker week in, week out lately and I have simply run out of steam. There are too many events and that's why I was pleased to hear that two ranking tournaments are being dropped from the schedule next season.

"After a result like this I am entitled to feel absolutely gutted, but I don't. It just wasn't me out there. I'm glad I'll be able to take a few days rest to recharge the batteries before the world championship, because they are badly needed at the moment."

While the conclusion that Hendry's burn-out influenced the outcome was inescapable, it would also be unfair to suggest that Williams's capture of a third title in 15 months, after triumphs at the Welsh Open and Grand Prix last year, was merely due to his opponent's ineffectiveness.

True, Hendry capitulated only 50 minutes into the evening's play as Williams converted a 5-2 first session lead into victory. However, by then, the damage had been done as the Welshman compiled breaks of 56, 50, 68, 66, and 59 to assume control.

"To beat the greatest player in history by such a huge margin is unreal. I think it will take a long time for this to sink in," Williams, who collected a first prize of £60,000, said.

RESULT: M Williams (Wales) bt S Hendry (Scot) 9-2. Frame scores (Williams first): 66-61, 7-64, 8-60, 87-0 75-31, 69-20, 73-48, 75-16, 75-8, 61-44, 61-21.

SPEEDWAY: PETERBOROUGH OWNER GAMBLES ON INTRODUCING NEW TEAM

Oakes ready to branch out in Skegness

BY TONY HOARE

SPEEDWAY sails into uncharted waters this weekend when Skegness Stadium becomes the second new venue in two years to open its doors to the sport.

After a 12-year period without the launch of a new club, 1996 saw the arrival of Wight Wizards on the Isle of Wight and the Skegness promotion has taken its cue from the island club.

Ryde was the financial success story of last year, attracting large crowds by speedway standards (1,500-2,000), and Peter Oakes, the Skegness promoter, admits that the Wizards' achievement provided the main incentive to launch the new club on the Yorkshire coast.

"It was the one major factor in deciding to do it," Oakes said. "People had said you could never be successful with speedway, but Ryde never ran a meeting in the holiday season, yet were incredibly successful."

Oakes is a former national newspaper journalist who took control of Peterborough when they were on the brink of extinction in 1992 and turned them into one of the country's most successful teams. He has entered the Skegness Braves into the Premier League to act as a sister track to Peterborough, of the Elite League, but confesses he is nervous about the new venture.

"This is the sort of gamble that gives you sleepless nights," Oakes said. "There has been a very heavy investment to get Skegness up and running. You wake up with that recurring nightmare that there will not be a single person in the stadium." In contrast to the Amateur League set-up at Ryde, Oakes has to pay wages to his riders.

"We are not expecting to win championships and cups this year," he said. "Skegness has never had speedway before and we hope people will come along and support us."

THE TIMES SUNDAY

OFFER NOT VALID IN REPUBLIC OF IRELAND OR MAINLAND EUROPE

GUIDE TO THE WEEK AHEAD

TODAY

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

FA Carling Premiership

Leeds v Blackburn (8.0) .....

Vauxhall Conference

Hednesford v Hahlax (7.45) .....

Bell's Scottish League

First division

Falkirk v Stirling .....

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Chelmsford v Hastings

ICIS LEAGUE: First division: Molesey v Leyton Pennant. Third division: Tring v Camberley.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: First division: Ashton United v Eastwood Town

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Bristol Rovers v Crystal Palace (at Yate Town FC); Chelsea v Charlton (at Kingstonians, 7.0), Luton v Bournemouth (2.0), Queens Park Rangers v Bristol City (at Harrow Borough, 7.0); Watford v Oxford United (at Chesham).

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Liverpool v Birmingham (7.0). First division: Preston v Huddersfield (7.0). Second division: Barnsley v Manchester City (7.0); Bradford v Burnley (7.0); Carlisle v Hull (7.0)

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES: Second division: Barnet v Wimbledon (11.0)

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Ilford v Stanstead

OTHER SPORT

BOWLS: Men's British championships (at Melton Mowbray)

RACING: Aintree (5.0); Southwell (AW, 2.15); Kelso (2.0).

SPEEDWAY: NPI Premiership: Wolverhampton v Peterborough (7.30). Premier League Knockout Cup: Eastbourne v Long Eaton (7.30); Reading v Arena Essex (7.30).

TOMORROW

RUGBY UNION

COURAGE CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP: First division: Gloucester v Leicester (7.45)

RUGBY LEAGUE

FIRST DIVISION: Hull Kingston Rovers v Huddersfield (7.30)

OTHER SPORT

BOWLS: Men's British championships (at Melton Mowbray)

BOXING: British super-middleweight championship (vacant) Sam Storey (Belfast) v David Starie (Ipswich) (at York Hall, Bethnal Green)

RACING: Nottingham (2.0), Wolverhampton (AW, 2.15)

WEDNESDAY

RUGBY UNION

COURAGE CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP: First division: Harlequins v Saracens (7.30).

RUGBY LEAGUE

SECOND DIVISION: Leigh v Bramley (7.30).

OTHER SPORT

BOWLS: Men's British championships (at Melton Mowbray).

RACING: Ripon (2.10); Chepstow (2.0), Ludlow (2.20).

SPEEDWAY: Star Cup: King's Lynn v Eastbourne (7.45). Poole v Peterborough (7.30). Premier League Knockout Cup: Hull v Glasgow (7.30); Long Eaton v Reading (7.30)

THURSDAY

BOWLS: Men's British championships (at Melton Mowbray).

RACING: Folkestone [illegible] Hamilton Park, (2.20); Fontwell [illegible]

SPEEDWAY: [illegible] v Poole (7.30); Premier [illegible] Cup: Sheffield v Glasgow

SWIMMING: Europe[illegible]ship trials (at Sheffield).

FR[illegible]

RUGBY

Kick-off 7.30 unless st[illegible]

STONES SUPER LEAGUE: Leeds v St Helens; Salford v Sheffield; Wigan v Bradford First division: Dewsbury v Widnes (7.45). Second division: Lancashire Lynx v York (7.[illegible])

OTHER SPORT

BOWLS: Men's British championships (at Melton Mowbray)

RACING: Beverley (2.20); Brighton (2.0); Nottingham (2.10).

SPEEDWAY: Star Cup: Belle Vue v Swindon (7.30); Peterborough v Poole (7.30). British under-21 championships: Semi-final: Arena Essex (6.0) Premier League Knockout Cup: Edinburgh v Hull (7.30); Oxford v Exeter (7.45).

SWIMMING: European Championship trials (at Sheffield).

SATURDAY

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

COURAGE CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP: First division: Bath v Leicester (2.15), Northampton v London Irish, Orrell v Bristol; Sale v Gloucester, Saracens v Wasps Second division: London Scottish v Rotherham; Moseley v Bedford, Newcastle v Coventry; Rugby v Blackheath; Wakefield v Nottingham, Waterloo v Richmond Third division: Clifton v Leeds; Fylde v Harrogate; Havant v Exeter; Liverpool St Helens v Wharfedale, Morley v London Welsh, Otley v Rosslyn Park, Redruth v Lydney; Walsall v Reading Fourth division north: Birmingham/Solihull v Winnington Park; Kendal v Hereford; Lichfield v Sandal; Manchester v Sheffield; Preston Grasshoppers v Stourbridge; Stoke-on-Trent v Nuneaton; Worcester v Aspatria. Fourth division south: Barking v Chelmsford; Berry Hill v North Walsham, Henley v Charlton Park, High Wycombe v Tabard; Met Police v Weston-super-Mare; Newbury v Camberley; Plymouth v Askeans.

REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES: Combined Services v England Students (at Twickenham, 12.30); Royal Navy v Army (at Twickenham)

SWALEC CUP: Semi-final: Swansea v Ebbw Vale (at Cardiff RFC, 2.45)

INSURANCE CORPORATION LEAGUE: First division: Blackrock College v Ballymena (2.30); Cork Constitution v Old Crescent (2.30); Dungannon v St Mary's College (2.30); Instonians v Shannon (2.30), Old Belvedere v Garryowen (2.30), Terenure College v Lansdowne (2.30); Young Munster v Old Wesley (2.30) Second division: Bective Rangers v UCC (2.30); Clontarf v Greystones (2.30). DLSP v Skerries (2.30); Derry v NIFC (2.30); Malone v Dolphin (2.30); Sunday's Well v Highfield (2.30); Wanderers v Monkstown (2.30).

OTHER SPORT

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: World League (WLAF): Amsterdam v Scottish Claymores (7.0)

BOWLS: Men's British championships (at Melton Mowbray)

BOXING: World Boxing Organisation bantamweight championship: Robbie Regan (Blackwood, holder) v opponent to be announced (at Cardiff).

RACING: Warwick (1.50); Wolverhampton (AW, 7.0), Ascot (2.0), Newton Abbot (2.10), Sedgefield (1.45).

SPEEDWAY: Star Cup: Coventry v Belle Vue (7.30). Elite League: Bradford v Peterborough (7.30); Swindon v Ipswich (7.30) Premier League Knockout Cup: Berwick v Edinburgh (7.0), Stoke v Newcastle (7.30)

SWIMMING: European Championship trials (at Sheffield)

SUNDAY

RUGBY UNION

SWALEC CUP: Semi-final: Llanelli v Cardiff (at Swansea RFC, 3.05).

RUGBY LEAGUE

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

STONES SUPER LEAGUE: Castleford v Warrington (3.30), Halifax v London, Oldham v Paris Saint-Germain (6.35) First division: Featherstone Rovers v Hull (3.30); Hull Kingston Rovers v Keighley; Swinton v Whitehaven; Wakefield v Workington (3.30). Second division: Barrow v Doncaster; Hunslet v Prescot (3.30); Leigh v Batley

OTHER SPORT

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: World League (WLAF): London Monarchs v Frankfurt (3.0)

ATHLETICS: London Marathon.

BOWLS: Men's British championships (at Melton Mowbray)

MOTORCYCLING: British Superbike championship (at Donington Park)

SPEEDWAY: Elite League: Eastbourne v Bradford (3.30). Premier League Knockout Cup: Glasgow v Sheffield (6.30), Newcastle v Stoke (6.30); Central Lincolnshire v Skegness (6.30).

SWIMMING: European Championship trials (at Sheffield).

TABLE TENNIS: Commonwealth championships (at Glasgow).

This week's football, page 30

THE TIMES SPORTS SERVICE

FOOTBALL

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FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

Road running

BLACKPOOL: International race: Men: 5,000m: 1, J Vibor (Ken) 13min 51sec; 2, T Whiteman (GEC Avonvale) 13:55; 3, G Tromans (Coventry Godiva) 13:58; 4, A Pearson (Longwood) 13:58; 5, J Koskei (Ken) 14:03; 6, A Passey (Bromsgrove) 14:08; 7, K Anderson (Bingley) 14:11; 8, S Duval (Cannock and Staffs) 14:19. **Women: 3,000m:** 1, J Kiplimo (Ken) 9min 24sec; 2, E Ivuloque (Ken) 9:25; 3, B Hartigan (Birchfield) 9:29; 4, C Pimblett (Sale) 9:30; 5, S Young (Salford) 9:31; 6, A Parkinson (Sale) 9:32; 7, H Hessman (Harwich) 9:34; 8, J Colluran (Liverpool) 9:35.

PARIS: Marathon: Men: 1, J Kemboi (Ken) 2:10:14; 2, L Swartbooi (Nam) 2:11:28; 3, A Rodrigues (Por) 2:12:12; 4, J Lopes (Por) 2:12:37; 5, L Bebio (Pol) 2:12:49; 6, V Vasco (Por) 2:12:59. **Women:** 1, *H Razdroguina (Russ) 2:29:10*; 2, A Tecuta (Rom) 2:29:24; 3, J Nagy (Hun) 2:31:56; 4, M-G Lorna (Mex) 2:32:07; 5, U Jentzner (Switz) 2:32:35; 6, *P Felice (It)* 2:34:16.

BIRMINGHAM: Reebok Midland Counties 12-stage relay championships: 1, Birchfield 3hr 44min 53sec; 2, Tipton (holders) 3:46:22; 3, Westbury 3:48:57. **Fastest laps: 3 miles:** G Tromans (Coventry Godiva) 13:43; 2, *K Bowditch (City of Stoke)* 14:00; 3, I Gillespie (Birchfield) 14:04. **5.4 miles:** 1, D Burrows (Birchfield) 25:45; 2, M Clarkson (Birchfield) 26:03; 3, M Flint (Telford) 26:04. **Veteran sb-stage:** 1, Redhill 21:24; 2, Telford 2:03:11; 3, Tipton 2:03:54. **Fastest laps: 3 miles:** P Yeomans *(Redhill 15.30*. **5.4 miles:** D Wilson-Evans (Bristol) 27.33.

LEEDS: Reebok North of England 12-stage relay championship: 59 miles: 1, Salford 4:10:40; 2, Bingley (holders) 4:13:51; 3, Morpeth 4:14:06; 4, Sunderland 4:16:18; 5, Sale Harriers Manchester 4:17:53; 6, Leeds City 4:20:21. **Fastest laps: 3.2 miles:** 1, A Pearson (Longwood) 16:19; 2, D Spawforth (Wakefield) 16:53; 3, K McKay (Sale Harriers Manchester) 16:56. **5.6 miles:** 1, equal, L Matthews (Salford) and M Peters (Bingley) 27:13; 3, S Bell (Chester-le-Street) 27:16.

BELFAST: Northern Ireland relay championships: Men: six-stage, 24.75km: 1, Annadale Striders 1:14:07 (course record); 2, North Belfast 1:15:00; 3, Sparta 1:15:50. **Fastest laps: 2.75km:** 1, equal, R Girvan (Annadale Striders) and A Campbell (Annadale Striders) 8:00. **5.5km:** R Farren (Sparta) 16:23. **Women: 4 x 2.75km:** 1, Lisburn 38:41; 2, Lagan Valley 43:04; 3, Sparta 43:17. **Fastest lap:** A Tersk (Lisburn) 9:02 (lap record).

KIRKINTILLOCH: Scottish six-stage relay championship: 27 miles: 1, Mizuno 2:14:34; 2, Shettleston (holders) 2:18:03; 3, Cambuslang 2:19:02. **Fastest laps: 3 miles:** M Davies (Victoria Park) 16:12.6 **miles:** D Ross (Mizuno) 27:41.

BLACKPOOL: CMFS international: 5km: 1, J Tibor (Ken) 13:51; 2, A Whiteman (GEC Avonvale) 13:55; 3, G Tromans (Coventry Godiva) 13:58. **Women, 3km:** 1, J Kiplimo (Ken) 9:24; 2, E Kplatdat (Ken) 9:25; 3, B Hartigan (Birchfield) 9:29.

Cross Country

ROMFORD: 3 miles: Men, 1, R Dziewulu (Woodford Green) 15min 19sec; 2, T Peccinato (Havering Joggers) 16:00; 3, R Warner (Havering Mayesbrook) 16:57. **Women:** 1, J Cutchey (Ilford) 17:47; 2, S Humphreys (Unattached) 19:08; 3, F Cooke *(March Brazil)* 19:12.

AUSTRALIAN RULES

MELBOURNE: Port Adelaide 8.12 (60) Essendon 14.9 (93). Fremantle 13.9 (87) Hawthorn 10.13 (73); *Brisbane 23.16 (154)* St Kilda 7.15 (57). Western Bulldogs 13.12 (90) Sydney 12.11 (83). Geelong 11.12 (78) West Coast 11.6 (72). Richmond 19.14 (128) Adelaide 15.10 (100). Melbourne 7.14 (56) Collingwood 24.19 (163).

BASEBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Friday. Cincinnati 9 Florida 7; *Colorado 5 Montreal 4, Atlanta 5* Chicago Cubs 4, Houston 3 St Louis 2 (11 innings); Los Angeles 5 Pittsburgh 3. San Diego 15 Philadelphia 3. San Francisco 6 *NY Mets 4.* **Saturday:** Colorado 15 Montreal 3. San Francisco 2 NY Mets 0. Florida 4 Cincinnati 3 (11 innings). Houston 6 St Louis 2. San Diego 4 *Philadelphia 1*. Atlanta 8 Chicago Cubs 5 (16 innings rain); Pittsburgh 3 Los Angeles 1.

East division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Florida	4	1	800	—
Montreal	3	2	600	1
Atlanta	2	2	500	1½
Philadelphia	1	4	200	3
New York	1	4	200	3
Central division				
Houston	4	1	800	—
Cincinnati	3	2	600	1
Pittsburgh	3	2	500	2
Chicago	2	3	400	2½
St Louis	0	5	000	4
West division				
San Diego	4	1	800	—
San Francisco	3	1	750	½
Los Angeles	3	2	600	1
Colorado	3	3	500	1½

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Friday: Detroit 8 Chicago White Sox 7 (10 innings); Toronto 6 Milwaukee 2. Kansas City 2 Minnesota 1; *Baltimore 5 Texas 4.* Boston 10 Seattle 5; Oakland 4 NY Yankees 2; Anaheim 8 Cleveland 6 (11 innings). **Saturday:** Milwaukee 5 Toronto 2; Detroit 15 Chicago White Sox 12. NY Yankees 10 Oakland 5. Minnesota 7 Kansas City 5. Baltimore 9 Texas 7. Boston 8 Seattle 6. Cleveland 7 Anaheim 5.

East division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	4	0	1 000	—
Boston	3	1	750	1
Detroit	3	3	500	2
NY Yankees	2	2	500	2
Toronto	2	3	400	2½
Central division				
Minnesota	4	1	800	—
Cleveland	3	2	500	1½
Milwaukee	3	2	500	1½
Kansas City	1	3	250	2½
Chicago WS	1	4	200	3
West division				
Anaheim	3	2	500	—
Oakland	2	2	500	—
Texas	1	2	333	½
Seattle	1	3	250	1

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Derby 80 (Rollitt 23, McGlomn 19, Attewell 9) Sheffield 91 (Harnce 21, Huggins 20, Cauthorn/Winters 19). Leicester 86 (McGee 31, Waldron 19, Phoenix 16) Birmingham 94 (Lloyd 32, Dorsey 28, Ross 11); Hamel & Watford 86 (Robinson 18, Vogel/Slater 16) Manchester 113 (Irish 24, St Kitts 19, Robinson 18) Worming 83 (Hamilton 30, Thomas 15, Nelson 13) Chester 76 (Singleton 20, *Leonard 18, Palmer 16*).

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Leopards	36	28	8	3379	3183	56
* London Tow	35	26	9	3112	2939	52
* Birmingham	35	25	10	3125	2943	50
* Sheffield	35	25	10	3084	2740	50
Chester	36	24	12	3111	2960	48
Manchester	36	22	14	3086	2699	44
* Newcastle	35	20	15	3119	3024	40
* Leicester	35	15	20	3098	3077	30
Derby	36	14	22	3166	3290	28
* Thames Vall	35	13	22	3173	3231	26
* Worming	35	11	24	2965	3122	22
Crystal Palace	36	5	31	2708	3116	10
* Hamel & W	35	2	33	2963	3095	4

* Does not include last night's matches.

NATIONAL LEAGUE. Men: First division: *Bury/Bolton 92; Plymouth 115, Cardiff 81* Liverpool 74, Coventry 94 Nottingham 70, Solent 66 Oxford 106, Wake 116 Stockton 98 Westminster 92 Guildford 71. **Women: First division.** Thames Valley 56 Birmingham 42.

HOCKEY

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE: Premier division: Barford Tigers 2 East Grinstead 1, Guildford 8 Havant 2, Old Loughtonians 2 Southgate 5, Reading 4 Cannock 1, Surbiton 2 Hounslow 2. *Teddington 8 Canterbury 3*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Reading	22	15	2	5	79	53	47
Teddington	22	15	1	6	78	56	46
Southgate	23	13	2	7	66	55	41
Cannock	23	12	3	7	79	52	39
Canterbury	23	10	5	7	65	59	35
East Grinstead	23	9	7	6	65	53	34
Guildford	23	10	3	9	76	64	33
Old Loughtos	23	10	2	10	58	56	32
Hounslow	23	5	6	11	43	65	21
Barford Tigers	22	6	3	14	56	70	20
Surbiton	22	4	7	11	44	73	19
Havant	22	2	2	18	38	73	8

FIRST DIVISION: Hull 2 Warrington 0; *Trojans 2 Harleston Magpies 0, Slourport 6* Gloucester City 1; St Albans 0 Firebrands 3, Shelfield 2 Doncaster 3, Oxford Univ 2 Crosiya 0; Oxford Hawks 1 City Of Portsmouth 2; Lewes 3 Brooklands 2; Isca 1 Bromley 5; Indian Gymkhana 4 Boumville 4, Beeston 2 Blueharts 3.

Leading positions

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Beeston	22	19	2	1	59	30	59
Doncaster	22	15	3	4	90	48	49
Slourport	22	11	5	6	73	46	38
Bournville	22	11	4	7	56	44	37
Blueharts	22	11	4	7	56	47	37
Firebrands	23	11	4	7	49	55	37
Isca	23	10	6	6	56	51	36
Indian Gym	22	10	5	7	61	50	35
Brooklands	23	10	3	9	55	42	33
St Albans	23	9	5	8	52	45	32
Lewes	23	9	4	9	66	68	31
Warrington	23	8	6	8	43	56	30
Shelfield	23	8	5	9	53	52	29
Harleston Mag	22	7	5	9	39	44	27
Gloucester	23	8	3	11	37	68	27
Oxford Hawks	23	6	2	12	39	50	26
Bromley	23	6	0	8	48	82	26

HA CUP: Semi-finals: Staines 2 De Montfort University 4, West Herts 4 Marlow 2.

AEWHA CUP: Quarter-finals. Clifton 3 Canterbury 1. Doncaster 4 Sutton Coldfield 1, Hightown 3 Aldridge 1, Slough 2 Ipswich 4.

AEWHA PLATE: Quarter-finals: Chiltern 2 Camberley 4, *Deeside Ramblers 3 Poynton* 3, Sevenoaks 2 Driffield 3, St Ives 3 Leominster 4.

WOMEN'S REGIONAL LEAGUES: East: Bexleyheath 3 WGC 1; Bury 4 Sevenoaks 1, Cambs C 4 Ashford 2, Harleston 4 Ipswich 2. Final standings: 1 Bury St Edmunds 31; 2 Harleston 24, 3 Sevenoaks 21. **Midlands:** Crimson R 3 Pettering 1, *Hampton 1 Aldridge 1, Pickwick 3 N Staffs* 1. Standings: 1 Aldridge 16-40, 2 Crimson R 15-33, 3 Hampton 15-33. **North:** Blackburn 6 Welton 2; Liverpool 3 Carlisle 0; Poynton 2 Sheffield 0, York 6 Chester 2. Standings: 1 Poynton 38, 2 Blackburn 30, 3 Welton 20. **South:** Reading 3 Horsham 0, Worthing 1 *Tulse Hill 2. Standings: 1 Tulse* Hill 40 (champions); 2 Horsham 32.

WOMEN'S CLUBS: *Bath 2 W Wills 1, Cardiff Ath 6 Old Howardians 1; Havant 1 Newbury 1, Lansdown 2 East Glos 1.*

WOMEN'S NATIONAL TROPHY FINAL: Leicester 47 Doncaster 33.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA). Friday: *LA Clippers 117 Boston 102; Indiana 114* Philadelphia 103, Atlanta 103 Detroit 89; Minnesota 97 Washington 95; Orlando 93 New York 84, Chicago 84 Cleveland 71; Phoenix 122 Denver 113, Utah 106 Vancouver 79, Portland 108 Milwaukee 93 San Antonio 94 LA Lakers 83, Houston 108 Sacramento 94. **Saturday:** Seattle 103 Dallas 84; Miami 98 Toronto 84, Charlotte 115 Philadelphia 113, New York 102 Atlanta 97, Phoenix 99 Portland 90; Golden State 120 San Antonio 103.

Eastern Conference

Atlantic division

	W	L	Pct	GB
* Miami	56	18	.757	—
* New York	53	22	.707	3½
Orlando	41	33	.554	15
Washington	38	36	.514	18
New Jersey	23	50	.315	32½
Philadelphia	21	53	.284	35
Boston	13	62	.173	43½
Central division				
† Chicago	64	10	.865	—
* Detroit	51	23	.689	13
* Atlanta	51	24	.680	13½
* Charlotte	48	26	.649	16
Cleveland	38	36	.514	26
Indiana	36	38	.486	28
Milwaukee	29	46	.387	35
Toronto	27	48	.360	37½

Western Conference

Midwest division

	W	L	Pct	GB
* Utah	56	17	.767	—
* Houston	50	24	.676	6½
Minnesota	37	37	.500	19½
Dallas	22	52	.297	34½
Denver	20	54	.270	36½
San Antonio	19	55	.257	37½
Vancouver	12	64	.158	45½
Pacific division				
* *Seattle*	52	23	.693	—
* LA Lakers	50	24	.676	1½
* Portland	44	32	.579	8½
Phoenix	36	39	.480	16
LA Clippers	33	41	.446	18½
Sacramento	29	45	.392	22½
Golden State	28	46	.378	23½

† Denotes clinched division title
** Denotes clinched play-off berth*

BOWLS

MELTON MOWBRAY: All England Men's *indoor championships: Fours: First* round: Woy Valley (H Craig) bt Bodmin (S Lane) 17-16, Wymondham Dell (R Haydon) bt Pendrawell (A Burbridge) 24-15, North Watcham (D Ward) bt Banwell (J Green) 32-5, Cyphers (G Smith) bt St Neots (R Coleman) 19-10; *Blackpool Borough (N* Burrows) bt Folkestone (G Charlton) 19-14, Guilvers (S Jeapes) bt Torbay (A Bowden) 20-11; *Victoria Street (J Sharpi bt Bletchley* (P Kenyon) 21-16, Cumbria (A Burton) bt Isle of Wight (P Furmidge) 25-11, Peterborough (J Newson) bt Paddington (G Smyth) 26-19, Whitekrights Reading (G Stanley) bt Brimstar (N Rowe) 25-19, Nottingham (P Dickens) bt Rugby Thornfield (B Lowe) 26-9; *Kingsthorpe (M* Sharpe) w/o Tye Green (P Ayling); 25; Tilbury (P Purdal) bt Spennymoor (G Condron) 23-17, Stanley (C Palmer) bt Towerlands (T Gosling) 22-11, Watford (M Yelland) bt Bristol (S Gait) 26-17; Huddersfield (A Atkinson) bt Longmeadow (G Standley) 24-14. **Second round:** Wymondham Dell bt West Valley 23-9; Cyphers bt North Watcham 17-16 (after extra end); *Black-pool Borough bt Guilvers 22-16*, Cumbria bt Victoria Street, 38-7; Whitknights bt Peterborough 22-18; Kingsthorpe; Northampton br Nottingham 19-11; Stanley bt Tilbury 22-11, Watford bt Huddersfield 17-14. **Quarter-finals:** Cyphers bt Wymondham Dell 19-15, Cumbria bt Black-pool Borough 24-19, Kingsthorpe bt Whitknights 30-16, Stanley bt Watford 21-3.

BOXING

PRETORIA, South Africa: International Boxing Federation junior-featherweight championship: Vuyani Bungu (SA, holder) bt Kennedy McKinney (US) pts.

GOLF

LINCOLN, California: LPGA Longs Challenge: Leaders after three rounds (United States unless stated): 212: A Sorenstam (Swe) 73, 68, 71. 213: J Inaba 72, 68, 73. 214: J Stephenson (Aus) 74, 70, 70; A Dibo (Sp) 72, 69, 72. 215: P Kerr-dam 71, 77, 67; D Andrews 75, 70, 70. 216: B Mucha 72, 70, 74, 277; *K Tschetter 72, 72, 73.* 218: D Richard (Can) 74, 74, 70; D Ammaccapane 73, 74, 71; S Steinhauer 74, 72, 72. 220: M Hirase (Japan) 76, 69, 76. 221: C Sorenstam (Swe) 76, 73, 72. 224: J Crafter (Aus) 79, 73, 72; A Palli (Fr) 75, 73, 76. 225: L Breckenridge (Aus) 74, 77, 74; N Harvey (Can) 74, 74, 77. 227: P Sim (Taiwan) 76, 73, 78. 229: S Little (SA) 74, 76, 79.

ENGLISH TURN, New Orleans: Leading positions in the third round of the Freeport. McDermott Classic (play called off for the day following storm delay): Bowler, *United States unless stated): 12 under:* L Pinkett (after 44 holes) 11; S McCarron (44) 10; B Faxon (44) 9; K Triplett (45) 8; J M Olazabal (Sp, 45), D Toms (45). **Others,** 4: J Parnevik (Swe, 48). 1 over: G Norman (Aus, 48).

ENGLISH TURN, New Orleans: Leading positions in the third round of the Freeport. McDermott Classic (play called off for the day following storm delay): Bowler, *United States unless stated): 12 under:* L Pinkett (after 44 holes) 11; S McCarron (44) 10; B Faxon (44) 9; K Triplett (45) 8; J M Olazabal (Sp, 45), D Toms (45). **Others,** 4: J Parnevik (Swe, 48). 1 over: G Norman (Aus, 48).

GYMNASTICS

GLASGOW: Women's International: Great Britain v Russia. Finals: Vault: 1, A Kovaleva 9.450; 2, E Groshova 9.425; 3, E Dolgopolova 9.250; 4, G Cuff (GB) 9.225. **Asymmetric bars:** 1, S Kharkina 9.750; 2, L Ezhova 9.700; 3, J Korotcikova 9.150; 4, M Wilcox (GB) 9.000. **Beams:** 1, L Ezhova 9.750; 2, *M Wilcox (GB)* and A Kovaleva 9.600; 4, S Khorkina 9.525. **Floor:** 1, A Reoder (GB) 9.325; 2, M Wilcox (GB) 9.300; 3, E Dolgopolova 9.250; 4, L Ezhova 9.150.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Friday: Buffalo 5 NY Rangers 1. New Jersey 5 Tampa Bay 0; Vancouver 3 Calgary 3 (OT); Anaheim 3 Dallas 2, San Jose 7 Colorado 6 (OT). **Saturday:** Boston 4 Florida 2, Pittsburgh 5 Ottawa 2; Tampa Bay 3 NY Islanders 2, *Hartford 4 Montreal 1, Detroit 4* Toronto 2, Edmonton 2 Vancouver 2 (OT); Los Angeles 3 Dallas 3 (OT).

Eastern Conference

Northeast division

	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
* Buffalo	39	27	12	227	194	90
* Pittsburgh	37	33	8	274	264	82
Montreal	29	35	14	239	268	72
Hartford	30	37	11	212	242	71
Ottawa	28	35	15	216	228	71
Boston	25	44	9	225	287	59
Atlantic division						
* New Jersey	43	21	13	219	171	99
* Philadelphia	43	22	12	259	200	98
* *Florida*	33	28	18	210	194	84
* NY Rangers	36	33	10	247	222	82
Tampa Bay	30	39	9	206	238	69
Washington	26	40	8	194	221	60
NY Islanders	28	38	12	230	235	68

Western Conference

Central division

	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
† Dallas	47	24	7	244	187	101
* Detroit	37	24	17	244	186	91
Phoenix	37	35	6	227	231	80
St Louis	33	34	11	227	235	77
Chicago	31	34	13	209	203	75
Toronto	29	42	8	223	264	66
Pacific division						
† Colorado	47	22	9	270	195	103
Anaheim	34	33	13	237	229	81
Edmonton	35	35	8	243	233	80
Calgary	32	37	9	207	223	73
Vancouver	33	40	7	240	263	73
Los Angeles	26	42	11	205	261	63
San Jose	26	44	8	201	266	60

** Denotes clinched play-off berth*
† Denotes clinched division title

LACROSSE

Men's South of England Flag's final: Seniors: Kenton 9 Purley 12. **Intermediate,** Tolsteic 18 Purley A 2. **Minors:** Southampton 3 Hitchin A 21 (at Molsprur Park). Daily Telegraph, Junior Flags: Cheadle 11 Rochdale A 8 (at Didsbury).

MOTOR RACING

SURFERS PARADISE, Australia: Indy Car Gold Coast race (57 laps, 256.5km): 1, S Pruett (US, Reynard Ford) 2hrs 1min 0.678sec; 2, G Moore (Can, Reynard Mercedes-Benz) 0.684sec behind; 3, M Andretti (US, Swift Ford) 11.261; 4, A Zanardi (It, Reynard Honda) 14.827; 5, G de Ferran (Br, Reynard Honda) 15.580; 6, A Ribeiro (Br, Lola Honda) 16.810; 7, R Boesel (Br, Reynard Ford) 17.634; 8, M Blundell (GB, Reynard Mercedes-Benz) *18.162*.

ROWING

SCULLERS HEAD OF THE RIVER (Mortlake to Putney) **Top ten finishers:** 1, M Kerslc (Queens Tower) 20min 31sec (senior one winner); 2, G Pooley (Lunden) 20:33 (Veteran A winner); 3, T Male (Tideway Scullers) 20:38 (Lightweight Open winner); 4, *N O'Toole (Commercial Dublin)* 20:40 (Open winner); 5, T Gale (Queens Tower) 20:41; 6, T Middleton (Rob Roy) 20:50; 7, G Towey (Fermoy Ireland) 20:53; 8, C Greenaway (Tungsten) 20:54; 9, D Pattullo (Aberdeen) 21:05; 10, J Di Lusso (Mortlake Anglian) 21:08 (Junior winner). **Other division winners: Men: Apprentice** (at Hunlex (Poplar and Blackwall) 15th 21:17. **Senior two:** T McGibbon (London University) 20th, 21:22. **Senior three:** T Westerland (Leander) 19th, 21:20. **Novice:** L Nolan (London University) 22nd, 21:23. **Lightweight Senior one:** W Somers (Durham University) 26th, 21:25. **Lightweight Senior two:** N Monahen (City of Cambridge) 38th, 21:36. **Lightweight Senior three:** M Hennessey (Tideway Scullers) 48th 21:44. **Junior 16:** T Brown (Mystic) 81st 22:02. **Veteran B:** R Stanhope (Molesey) 36th, 21:33. **Veteran C and Services.** D Cunningham (RAF) *39th*, 21:37. **Veteran D:** R Gulled (Thames) 115th, 22:20. **Women. Open:** G Batten (Thames) 32nd, 21:32 (record). **Senior one.** M Batten (Thames) 99th, 22:11. **Senior two:** A Van Lempotten (Thames) 220th, 23:18. **Senior three:** C Dawes (Thames) 198th, 23:02. **Novice:** T Langlands (Thames) 206th, 23:11. **Lightweight Open:** S Appelboom (Mortlake Anglian) 110th, 22:15. **Lightweight Senior one:** C Broome (Mortlake Anglian) 24th, *23 min 18sec*. **Lightweight Senior two:** P Gough (Thames) 202nd, 23:08.

SCHOOLS SPORT

Football

West Yorks league U-11: Leeds/Airedale 2 Barnsley 9, Huddersfield 1 Sheffield 4.

Isle Of Wight Festival: Isle Of Wight 6 Bishop Auckland 5; Hunmanton Manchester 2, Lowestoft & North Suffolk 2 Bury 4; Vale Of White Horse 1 Wirral 3; Wakefield 4 East Berkshire 2; Reading 2 Derby 5, Bridgwater 1 Newham 4 Hungerton Upon Hull 3 Gravesham 2, Gosport and Fareham 1 Doncaster 3, Luton 1 Blackburn 2 Rotherham 4 Yeovil 1.

English Schools Under-19 festival (at Pakefield): Essex 0 Shropshire 2; Worcestershire 0 Northumberland 2; North Yorkshire 0 Dorset 2 Cornwall 3 West Yorkshire 1; Hampshire 8 0 Merseyside 8 1.

SQUASH

CARDIFF: Leekes British Open championships: Men: Semi-finals: P Nicol (Scot) bt R Eyles (Aus) 5-15, 15-12, 17-14, 15-2. Jansher Khan (Pak) bt A Barada (Egypt) 13-15, 15-8, 15-8, 15-4. **Women: Semi-finals:** S Fitz-Gerald (Aust) bt S Wright (Eng) 9-2, 7-9, 9-2, 9-1. M Martin (Aus) bt F Geswick (Ent) 9-4, 9-0, 9-1. **Final:** Martin bt Fitz-Gerald 9-5, 9-10, 9-5, 9-5.

SNOOKER

PLYMOUTH: British Open: Final: M Williams (Wales) bt S Hendry (Scot) 9-2.

TENNIS

DAVIS CUP: Euro-African Zone: Group One: Austria 3 Croatia 2 (at Klosterneuburg, Clay): Austria bt T Muster (Austria) 6-7, 7-5, 6-7, 6-2, 7-5; G Schaller (Austria) bt S Ho 3-7, 6-3, 6-3, 7-5. **Slovakia 3 Israel 1** (at Piestany, Slovakia): bt E Ran (Isr) 6-2, 6-3, 6-2; D Hrbaty (Slovakia) bt D Goldstein (Isr) 6-3, 6-3, 7-6. **Switzerland 3 Belgium 2** (at Fribourg, Carpet): M Rosset (Swit) bt D Prinosil (Ger) 6-4, 6-4, 6-7, 6-4; **Belgium 2 Denmark 2. World Group: Quarter-finals:** Italy 4 Spain 1 (C Moya (Spa) bt M Mantelli (It) 7-6, 4-6, 6-3; O Camporese (It) bt A Costa (Spa) 6-2, 3-6, 6-4, **Sweden 3 South Africa 2. American Zone: Group One: Second round: Canada 4 Venezuela 0** (S Lareau (Can) bt J Szymanski (Ven) 6-3, 7-5; *Lightweight Senior three: G Farrer-Pasce* (Tideway Scullers) 261st, 23:58. **Veteran A:** J Watson (Auriol Kensington) 260th, 23:56. **Veteran B:** J Vickers (City of Sheffield) 206th, 24:24.

SNOOKER

PLYMOUTH: British Open: Final: M Williams (Wales) bt S Hendry (Scot) 9-2.

TENNIS

DAVIS CUP: Euro-African Zone: Group One: Austria 3 Croatia 2 (at Klosterneuburg, Clay): Austria bt T Muster (Austria) 6-7, 7-5, 6-7, 6-2, 7-5; G Schaller (Austria) bt S Ho 3-7, 6-3, 6-3, 7-5. **Slovakia 3 Israel 1** (at Piestany, Slovakia): bt E Ran (Isr) 6-2, 6-3, 6-2; D Hrbaty (Slovakia) bt D Goldstein (Isr) 6-3, 6-3, 7-6. **Switzerland 3 Belgium 2** (at Fribourg, Carpet): M Rosset (Swit) bt D Prinosil (Ger) 6-4, 6-4, 6-7, 6-4; **Belgium 2 Denmark 2. World Group: Quarter-finals:** Italy 4 Spain 1 (C Moya (Spa) bt M Mantelli (It) 7-6, 4-6, 6-3; O Camporese (It) bt A Costa (Spa) 6-2, 3-6, 6-4, **Sweden 3 South Africa 2. American Zone: Group One: Second round: Canada 4 Venezuela 0** (S Lareau (Can) bt J Szymanski (Ven) 6-3, 7-5; *Lightweight Senior three: G Farrer-Pasce* (Tideway Scullers) 261st, 23:58. **Veteran A:** J Watson (Auriol Kensington) 260th, 23:56. **Veteran B:** J Vickers (City of Sheffield) 206th, 24:24.

SCHOOLS SPORT

Football

West Yorks league U-11: Leeds/Airedale 2 Barnsley 9, Huddersfield 1 Sheffield 4.

Isle Of Wight Festival: Isle Of Wight 6 Bishop Auckland 5; Hunmanton Manchester 2, Lowestoft & North Suffolk 2 Bury 4; Vale Of White Horse 1 Wirral 3; Wakefield 4 East Berkshire 2; Reading 2 Derby 5, Bridgwater 1 Newham 4 Hungerton Upon Hull 3 Gravesham 2, Gosport and Fareham 1 Doncaster 3, Luton 1 Blackburn 2 Rotherham 4 Yeovil 1.

English Schools Under-19 festival (at Pakefield): Essex 0 Shropshire 2; Worcestershire 0 Northumberland 2; North Yorkshire 0 Dorset 2 Cornwall 3 West Yorkshire 1; Hampshire 8 0 Merseyside 8 1.

MOTOR RACING

SURFERS PARADISE, Australia: Indy Car Gold Coast race (57 laps, 256.5km): 1, S Pruett (US, Reynard Ford) 2hrs 1min 0.678sec; 2, G Moore (Can, Reynard Mercedes-Benz) 0.684sec behind; 3, M Andretti (US, Swift Ford) 11.261; 4, A Zanardi (It, Reynard Honda) 14.827; 5, G de Ferran (Br, Reynard Honda) 15.580; 6, A Ribeiro (Br, Lola Honda) 16.810; 7, R Boesel (Br, Reynard Ford) 17.634; 8, M Blundell (GB, Reynard Mercedes-Benz) *18.162*.

ROWING

SCULLERS HEAD OF THE RIVER (Mortlake to Putney) **Top ten finishers:** 1, M Kerslc (Queens Tower) 20min 31sec (senior one winner); 2, G Pooley (Lunden) 20:33 (Veteran A winner); 3, T Male (Tideway Scullers) 20:38 (Lightweight Open winner); 4, *N O'Toole (Commercial Dublin)* 20:40 (Open winner); 5, T Gale (Queens Tower) 20:41; 6, T Middleton (Rob Roy) 20:50; 7, G Towey (Fermoy Ireland) 20:53; 8, C Greenaway (Tungsten) 20:54; 9, D Pattullo (Aberdeen) 21:05; 10, J Di Lusso (Mortlake Anglian) 21:08 (Junior winner). **Other division winners: Men: Apprentice** (at Hunlex (Poplar and Blackwall) 15th 21:17. **Senior two:** T McGibbon (London University) 20th, 21:22. **Senior three:** T Westerland (Leander) 19th, 21:20. **Novice:** L Nolan (London University) 22nd, 21:23. **Lightweight Senior one:** W Somers (Durham University) 26th, 21:25. **Lightweight Senior two:** N Monahen (City of Cambridge) 38th, 21:36. **Lightweight Senior three:** M Hennessey (Tideway Scullers) 48th 21:44. **Junior 16:** T Brown (Mystic) 81st 22:02. **Veteran B:** R Stanhope (Molesey) 36th, 21:33. **Veteran C and Services.** D Cunningham (RAF) *39th*, 21:37. **Veteran D:** R Gulled (Thames) 115th, 22:20. **Women. Open:** G Batten (Thames) 32nd, 21:32 (record). **Senior one.** M Batten (Thames) 99th, 22:11. **Senior two:** A Van Lempotten (Thames) 220th, 23:18. **Senior three:** C Dawes (Thames) 198th, 23:02. **Novice:** T Langlands (Thames) 206th, 23:11. **Lightweight Open:** S Appelboom (Mortlake Anglian) 110th, 22:15. **Lightweight Senior one:** C Broome (Mortlake Anglian) 24th, *23 min 18sec*. **Lightweight Senior two:** P Gough (Thames) 202nd, 23:08.

LACROSSE

Men's South of England Flag's final: Seniors: Kenton 9 Purley 12. **Intermediate,** Tolsteic 18 Purley A 2. **Minors:** Southampton 3 Hitchin A 21 (at Molsprur Park). Daily Telegraph, Junior Flags: Cheadle 11 Rochdale A 8 (at Didsbury).

MOTOR RACING

SURFERS PARADISE, Australia: Indy Car Gold Coast race (57 laps, 256.5km): 1, S Pruett (US, Reynard Ford) 2hrs 1min 0.678sec; 2, G Moore (Can, Reynard Mercedes-Benz) 0.684sec

If you've got a sense of adventure and a head for heights, you'll have a whale of a time, says **Ronald Gribble**

Cook's tour with thrills but no frills

Would you jump at the chance to live like an 18th-century sailor, sail a square-rigger, sleep in a hammock, hoist the sails, climb the rigging, take the helm and fire the cannon? The fantasy became a reality for Gerald Collins, a 54-year-old retired publican from Cork, in the Irish Republic, who has just spent five months sailing from Australia to London on the £8 million replica of Captain Cook's ship *Endeavour*. "As an ex-merchant seaman I always had a yearning to travel on an old-style sailing ship," he said. "It's a *Boy's Own* adventure come true."

Gerald paid £25,000 to make the 12,000-mile journey as a passenger, but if you are fit, do not suffer from seasickness and are not afraid of heights, you may qualify to join the 36-strong amateur crew. They will assist the 14 paid professionals on the ship's seven-month tour of Britain.

I joined the *Endeavour* at Tenerife for a four-day sail to Madeira and soon got a taste of life as an old sea dog. Some of the crew looked like pirates with earrings, tattoos and bandannas. But these energetic men and women from Australia, Britain, New Zealand and South Africa turned out to be a friendly bunch.

When personal space consists of just a locker, and you share a tiny washroom, cram into a small mess room for meals and sleep shoulder-to-shoulder in swinging hammocks, you soon begin to look and feel like a pirate yourself.

Ironically, when the original *Endeavour* arrived in Rio de Janeiro on November 13, 1768, Cook and his crew had to wait six weeks for clearance until the Portuguese administrator was convinced that they were Royal Navy sailors and not pirates.

We were woken at about six each morning with a blast of music and expected to wash and stow our hammocks away before breakfast. One morning I forgot to clear my bedding first thing and later found it dumped on a wet top deck. I got the message.

There was never an idle moment. Besides sailing the ship, the crew split into 12-strong "watches" and took turns at cleaning below decks each morning. Up top, the ship's maintenance — sanding, varnishing, painting and tarring — went on all day, and watch was kept around the clock. Night shift was the worst.

One female crew member summed it up: "When you have to rise at midnight and spend the next four hours changing the sails in the dark, you know what hard work is all about. Your arms ache and your hands get covered in tar and blisters. Then it's back to bed for a couple of hours' sleep before being woken for breakfast. But just try and stop me going to sea. I love it, especially climbing the masts."

A male crew member added: "One of the questions on the application form asked whether I was prepared to go aloft to a height of 140ft in all weathers. I had never climbed rigging before, but I wanted to go, so I said yes. The first time I got to the top I was so exhilarated that I didn't sleep for two nights. I was on such a high. Up there you are above 10,500 square feet of canvas, the deck looks like a matchbox and the view is fantastic."

The youngest member of the crew, 18-year-old Karl Johnston from Whitby in North Yorkshire — home of the original *Endeavour* and where Captain Cook served his apprenticeship — joined the ship in Cape Town and had his £2,700 crew fee paid by sponsorship.

A sea cadet, he had deferred his A levels for a year so that he could make the trip. "I wanted something special to put on my application form when I apply to join the Royal Marines," he said. "We have seen whales, porpoises, Portuguese men-of-war and flying fish. I went for a swim in the doldrums near the Equator. The next day we saw sharks in the area. I hope to take the helm when we reach Whitby on May 10. All the hotels are already booked for *Endeavour's* arrival and they are planning to release 4,000 balloons as she sails into the harbour. It'll be great."

Steven Maycock, 37, an aircraft engineer from Caernarvon, North Wales, decided to give up a well-paid job with the Ministry of Defence in Saudi Arabia after reading about Endeavour's voyage in The Times. The £15,000 he had saved to pay off his mortgage was spent on the trip from Cape Town to London instead. A former member of an RAF mountain rescue team, he said: "I was seasick for the first four days. But I soon recovered and have enjoyed every minute."

Des McLean, 61, a spritely former squadron leader from Mandurah, Perth, joined Steven as a paying passenger. He said: "I followed the building of *Endeavour* in Fremantle, Australia, and decided to make the voyage to England. It's cost me £15,000. I could have bought a spanking new four-wheel drive for the money, but the memories of this trip will last a lifetime."

Colin Graham, a 6ft 2in crewcut cameraman from Perth, is making a film of *Endeavour's voyage for Australia's Channel Nine television and world networks.* He took to climbing the rigging like a spider. "For the first time in my life I have impressed my father," he said. "He's an ex-seaman. On the first occasion I climbed the mast I rang and told him I felt I could do anything. He said: 'I know what you mean, son. You discover yourself at sea.'"

We followed the northeast trade winds for 400 miles at about six to seven knots and rarely saw an aircraft, let alone another ship. Our only companions in the Atlantic were dolphins which swam and dived on each side of the bow.

During safety drill, Geoff, the first mate, showed us how to put on lifejackets in case we had to abandon ship. "Make sure the straps are tight or the jacket will come off when you hit the water," he said. "When you go over the side, hold your hands firmly over your mouth and nose and don't release them until you surface. Conserve your energy and don't try to swim. Wait until you are rescued."

That safety lesson was to become frighteningly real the next day. "Man overboard," came the cry as I sat in the stern sunning myself. "We have a man overboard on the port side," blared the intercom. "It's Scottie. All hands on deck." As I went into journalist mode and grabbed my camera, an officer barked: "Ron! Lend a hand." Not knowing whether it was an exercise or the real thing, I did not argue. As we pulled on the lines to change the sails and stall the ship, a rescue powerboat with two crewmen in wetsuits was lowered into the choppy sea.

Later, Tina Jackson from Bognor Regis, Sussex, cradled the rescued Scottie in her arms. "It's a buoy!" she said, smiling. The rescue marker, I learnt, had been named after a crew member, a strong swimmer, who had fallen overboard and almost drowned when he began to lose consciousness after only 12 minutes in the water.

"That rescue took seven minutes," reported Captain Chris Blake, the ship's British master. "It was better than last time, but we can speed it up. OK, back to work."

Blake, 51, is one of the most experienced captains of sailing ships in the world. He joined the Merchant Navy at 15 and got his master's ticket in 1972. After serving with P&O and sailing on the *Princess* line he captained the tall ships *Malcolm Miller* and the *Winston Churchill*. "*Endeavour* is like a university course in sail training. She is unique," he said.

Later that day he received a radio message that the *Malcolm Miller* was in the area and arranged to rendezvous for a "battle" at sea. The cannons were rammed with a small amount of gunpowder and rolled-up newspapers, and balloons were filled with water as ammunition for our deckside catapult.

The training ship sailed into sight with her fire hoses at the ready to drench us. As she came alongside we were pelted with rotten fruit by her crew. We fired our cannon, showering them with confetti, and launched a salvo of water balloons, making half a dozen direct hits. Both ships retired with a round of cheers.

Last year when *Endeavour* fired a blank at the inquisitive crew of an American battleship which came to close in the Indian Ocean, a startled US Marine fell and broke a limb. A puzzled Pentagon received the signal: "Attacked by an 18th-century warship. One casualty."

Cook might have fired a warning shot, too. The 41 survivors of the *Endeavour's* original 94 crew did not learn of peace in Europe and that trade conflicts with America had been settled until June 1771, at the end of their three-year voyage.

Among our professional crew were an English couple, Danny and Caroline McDermott, both 36, who emigrated to Australia seven years ago. Danny, a shipwright from Land's End, was part of the team that spent five years building the *Endeavour*. Caroline, from Ealing, west London, who is the ship's curator and steward, said: "At one time, the ship rolled so far over that the cannons got wet. We could pour out only half cups of tea. We are travelling with *Endeavour* to America and by the time we get back to Australia in the year 2000 we will have sailed around the world."

At about 4am on my last day on board ship, as *Endeavour* approached Madeira, I was woken and called up on deck. "Look, over there," pointed Caroline. Lighting up the inky-black sky like a football-sized Catherine wheel was the comet Hale-Bopp. On August 30, 1769, Cook noted in his diary that they had seen a comet just a month before they sighted New Zealand. Perhaps it was our guiding light, too.



RONALD GRISBLE

Bottoms up: crew members hang over the bow in the Atlantic as they furl the sails for the night. Watch is kept around the clock and a hand always at the helm

HOW TO JOIN UP

● Crew members must be aged between 18-35 and have some sailing experience, preferably on tall ships. Crew fees are from £245 to £825. Non-sailors can join the ship as paying passengers. A 12-day voyage costs £4,400. Ring the Endeavour Foundation, 0181-293 5522.

ON EXHIBITION

● The *Endeavour* is on exhibition at Greenwich Pier until April 13 from 10am to 7pm. Admission prices are £5 adults, children £2.50. Family tickets, £12.50. Details: 0181 293 5522. She will then be at **Great Yarmouth** (April 19-28), **Boston** (May 2-5), **Whitby** (May 10-18), **Leith, Edinburgh** (May 24-June 1), **Inverness** (June 7-15), **Greenock** (June 28-July 6), **Liverpool** (July 11-20), **Fishguard** (July 26-August 3), **Falmouth** (August 9-17), **Plymouth** (August 23-31), **Weymouth** (September 6-9), **Brighton** (September 13-21), **St Helier, Jersey** (September 27-October 5). After a visit to **St Malo** (October 7-12), *Endeavour* returns to Plymouth on October 17 to prepare for her voyage to the United States.

SPORT FOR ALL

DO'S AND DON'TS

Do exercise, such as stretching and jogging, before joining the ship.
Do take seasickness pills, just in case.
Do take some warm clothing. Night watch can be particularly cold.
Do take trainers for climbing rigging.
Do take boxer shorts and a T-shirt for sleeping in your hammock.

DON'T take a suitcase or too many clothes. The lockers are very small.
DON'T forget to take a torch. It's very dark below deck at night.
DON'T take your own rations. You will get three good meals a day.
DON'T take tobacco or alcohol. They are strictly banned on ship.
DON'T worry. If you are fit, you'll have a great time. Good luck.

SPORTS LETTERS

The umpire strikes back

From Dr R. E. M. Irving

Sir, Is there not a simple solutions to the problem posed by Simon Barnes ("Art of getting away with it", Mid-week View, April 2)? It certainly seemed to me as a non-oarsman quite incredible that the Cambridge cox got away with over 30 warnings without any action being taken by the umpire.

Why does the umpire not call out "Cambridge (or Oxford): first warning", and so on up to fourth and final warning? If either cox receives a fifth warning, his/her crew is disqualified. Coxes would then be extremely wary about "playing the umpire" after the third warning.

Yours faithfully,
R. E. M. IRVING,
43 Ormidale Terrace,
Edinburgh 12.

From Mr M. Grosvenor Myer

Sir, Steven Redgrave (report, March 31) was quite right, of course; but he misses the point that University Boat Race crews are not supposed to be able to compete with international or world championship finalists' eights — any more than, say, student actors or debaters can expect to compete with the National Theatre or the House of Lords.

Their publicly observed activities are pursued on an amateur basis in such time as can be spared from their proper business of reading for their degrees or pursuing their research.

Yours truly,
MICHAEL GROSVENOR MYER,
34 West End,
Haddenham,
Cambridge.

Better way to choose team

From Mr S. J. Blake

Sir, The debate over the selection of Europe's Ryder Cup team (report, March 26) seems to neglect an important consideration. Instead of arguing whether Severiano Ballesteros should have two or four personal choices, surely we should be considering whether a ranking-list compiled from European Tour earnings is the most appropriate basis for selection.

A ranking system which takes into account performances in all tournaments worldwide would be much more appropriate. This would allow players such as Nick Faldo to qualify for the Ryder Cup team on merit while continuing to pursue a path which they believe will produce maximum benefit to their own game.

Furthermore, there is no need to devise a new ranking system as an entirely appropriate one already exists in the form of the Sony world rankings.

I would propose that Europe's Ryder Cup team consist of the 12 highest ranked Europeans in these rankings. All whose form is good enough to deserve selection would thereby be included, but all selections would be as the result of objective assessments, so controversial, subjective decisions would be avoided. This would prevent the acrimony of previous selections, eg, José Rivero rather than Christy O'Connor Jr in the match at The Belfry in 1985.

It is too late to select the 1997 team on this basis, but could this system not be implemented for 1999?

Yours faithfully,
STUART J. BLAKE,
142 St Stephen Street,
Edinburgh 3.

Unlikely optimism

From Mr Iwan Fox

Sir, So, Gerald Davies believes club rugby in Wales is in good health (report, March 31). It seems that he suffers from the unlikely Welsh phenomenon of eternal optimism.

Welsh club rugby is, by common consent of those who watch the game throughout its playing structure, in a dire moribund condition. Clubs in debt, the Welsh Rugby Union in malaise, poor coaching, overpaid and undertalented players, all encompassed by a national side playing to a brave but ultimately flawed commitment to a brand of rugby that is leaving the nation in the European second division of the sport.

The overall health of the game has shown signs of terminal decline for over 20 years. The latest attempts of the WRU to camouflage its decay with grandiose plans for the new national stadium and proposed entry to a Super 12 series for our leading teams being like a prescription for a cancer patient being told a facelift and stomach tuck is the cure for his ills.

I hope that Davies turns his keen eye in future to the fuller picture of the Welsh game, not just to its high-profile, scruffily painted frame.

Yours etc.,
IWAN FOX,
52 King Street,
Blaenavon, Gwent.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211. They should include a daytime telephone number.

Techniques of running

From Mr R. E. Kemp

Sir, The most significant phrase in Bryant's Eye (March 27) was: "... you cannot do much to change the form that you have grown up with." It is difficult to alter established patterns, but it can be done, and, having been allowed to develop through the years of Paula Radcliffe's promise, it should be done.

Such problems will continue to arise while coaches have to specialise as early as stage two of their qualifications. A large proportion opt to become middle-distance coaches, but I have met few who recognise that events longer than 400 metres have a technical element. Those who do often claim lack of time for such work and their athletes continue to churn out mileage and compound the faults.

It takes little effort to develop good style early on and much, often heartbreaking, work to cure bad habits.

Of the athletes cited Emil Zatopek was so far ahead of his opposition in his training methods in 1952 that his style was immaterial and, unorthodox as it may seem, there is not a superfluous movement in Michael Johnson's running and his lower-leg strength is phenomenal.

It was no coincidence either that Sebastian Coe's father/coach was an engineer who understood principles of mechanical movement, but Radcliffe can take heart from Valeri Borzov whose running was taken apart and rebuilt, from the ankles up, to take him to double Olympic gold.

Yours etc.,
R. E. KEMP,
69 Bradgate Road,
Nottingham.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

This freakish deal cropped up in a 1963 Gold Cup match:

Dealer North — Game All — IMPs

	♠AJ95 ♥A8643 ♦J104 ♣A	
♠863 ♥KQJ10952 ♦3 ♣Q2	N W E S	♠2 ♥- ♦K98752 ♣J109854
	♠KQ1074 ♥7 ♦AQ6 ♣K763	

Contract: Six Spades by South. Lead: king of hearts.

I assume North opened One Heart and South responded One Spade. I do not know how the bidding went from there, but the final contract is a good one.

South was no doubt unhappy to see dummy's ace of hearts ruffed at trick one. East returned a diamond, leaving declarer with no option but to finesse. When that succeeded, he cashed the club ace, played a trump to hand, cashed the king of clubs, ruffed a club, played a trump to hand and ruffed his last club. In dummy for the last time, he now had to finesse a diamond, and West ruffed to beat the slam. Unlucky? Perhaps, but there is a better line.

Declarer tried to set up the wrong hand — he should have ruffed hearts in his own hand rather than clubs in dummy. Win the jack of diamonds at trick two, ruff a heart, play a club to the ace and ruff another heart. Now a spade to dummy and a third heart ruff leaves declarer with one trump left in hand, which he can overtake in dummy to draw West's trumps. All he has to do is take another diamond finesse for his slam. In total he makes four spade tricks in dummy, three heart ruffs in hand, three diamonds and two clubs.

The winning line is an example of 'dummy reversal', the technique in which extra tricks are generated by taking ruffs in the long-trump hand. The skill was in envisaging the ending when the diamond finesse held at trick two.

☐ The 1997 Bridge Player's Calendar contains 365 problems from the world's top players, one to each tear-off page, with the solution on the back. Originally sold at £13.99, you can now order one for £5 (postage paid) from Mr Bridge, Ryden Grange, Bisley, Surrey GU21 2TH.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Exiled champion

Curiously, just as Philidor, the first great French chess master, was exiled from Paris to London so, France, has acquired its own modern world champion, Boris Spassky.

Today I conclude my series on French chess with the following game was played in 1972, when Spassky still represented the Soviet Union. Twenty-five years ago, Spassky successfully opened his world title defence against Bobby Fischer when the American grandmaster controversially captured a white pawn on h2 and then allowed his bishop to be trapped. Experts are still debating whether Fischer might have retained drawing chances in the endgame that ensued.

White: Boris Spassky
Black: Bobby Fischer

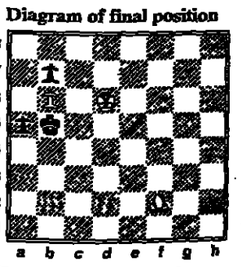
World championship, Reykjavik 1972

Queen's Gambit Declined

1	d4	Nf6
2	c4	e6
3	Nf3	d5
4	Nc3	Bb4
5	e3	0-0
6	Bd3	c5
7	0-0	Nc6
8	a3	Ba5
9	Ne2	dxc4
10	Bxc4	Bb6
11	dxc5	Qxd1
12	Rxd1	Bxc5
13	b4	Be7
14	Bb2	Bd7
15	Rac1	Rfd8
16	Nxd4	Nxd4
17	Nxd4	Ba4
18	Bb3	Bxb3
19	Nxb3	Rxd1+
20	Rxd1	Rc8
21	Kf1	Kf8
22	Ke2	Ne4
23	Rc1	Rxc1
24	Bxc1	f6
25	Na5	Nd6
26	Kd3	Bd8
27	Nc4	Bc7
28	Nxd6	Bxd6
29	b5	Bxh2
30	g3	h5
31	Ke2	h4
32	Kf3	Ke7
33	Kg2	hxg3
34	hxg3	Bxg3
35	Kxg3	Kd6
36	a4	Kd5
37	Ba3	Ke4
38	Bc5	a6
39	b6	f5
40	Kh4	f4
41	exd4	Kxd4
42	Kh5	Kf5
43	Be3	Ke4
44	Bf2	Kf5
45	Bh4	e5
46	Bg5	e4
47	Be3	Kf6
48	Kg4	Ke5
49	Kg5	Kd5
50	Kf5	a5
51	Bf2	g6
52	Kxg5	Kc4
53	Kf5	Kb4
54	Kxe4	Kxa4
55	Kd5	Kb5
56	Kd6	

Black resigns

Diagram of final position



☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

GREMIAL
a. A Revolutionary month
b. Busty
c. A scented rhododendron

TONITRUOUS
a. Cascading
b. Menacing
c. Thunderous

GRIDE
a. To begrudge
b. A racing stirrup
c. To scrape

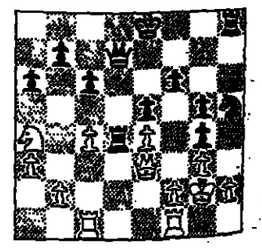
REMIPED
a. Pedestrian
b. Vexed again
c. With feet as oars

Answers on page 45

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game Buenaventura — Ramos, Manila 1997. Black is controlling the important areas of the board. How did he now power his way through on the kingside?



Solution on page 45

SAILING

Atlantic crossing record finally falls to flying Finn

BY EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT

ONE of the oldest records in sailing was broken at the weekend when the Bruce Farr-designed 80ft Grand Mistral maxi, *Nicorette*, skippered by Ludde Ingvall, set the fastest time for a monohull crossing of the Atlantic from New York to Cornwall.

After being frustrated by a high-pressure system that seemed to anticipate Ingvall's every evasive move during the second half of the trip, the yacht ran gently past the Lizard at 2.57 yesterday morning to set a time of 11 days, 13 hours and 22 minutes.

Nicorette, which showed blistering speed over the first two days when she briefly touched 29.2 knots, had travelled a total of 3,005 miles at an average speed of 10.83 knots. She thus comprehensively beat the record set in 1905 by the schooner, *Atlantic*, by 14hr, 38min and 50sec.

Ingvall, a Finn based in Sweden, originally chartered the boat for the Grand Mistral round-the-world race, which is unlikely now to take place. He was delighted to have achieved his objective. "This is a fantastic achievement and a thrill for everyone who has been involved," he said as the celebrations began at the Royal Western Yacht Club, in Plymouth.

"Conditions were favourable for the first few days, but the high pressure made life extremely difficult for us. This has been an experience of a lifetime and, in many ways, I'm sad that it has come to an end."

Ingvall was helped by a young and enthusiastic crew drawn from all over the world, including two leading women ocean racers, Mikaela von Koskull, from Finland, who sailed as a watch captain, and Adrianne Cahalan, of Australia, who recently resigned from the Elle Racing Whitbread syndicate and who was one of the three helmsmen.

The sole British representative was Bob Fisher, 61, who was ready to have another go yesterday. Fisher was on board as navigator and was satisfied with his work, despite the stubborn high in the latter stages.

"We have done it by a convincing margin," he said. "We are happy enough with it, though we'd have liked to have really smashed it. At one stage, eight to nine days was on the cards. The Atlantic can offer you anything. It did and we coped. One day, somebody's going to get it so right, by luck as much as anything, and they are just going to go whacking through."

Driven before a deep low-pressure system that whipped the breeze up to over 100mph, *Nicorette* reached the 1,000-mile mark in only three days, despite a torn mainsail that was down for repairs for 13 hours. During one six-hour period the giant sloop covered 110 miles, including one 30-minute segment when she averaged 20.9 knots.

In the closing stages, however, *Nicorette* was reduced at times to just four knots and put in one 189-mile day as Ingvall battled to hold on to his early gains. Apart from the tears in the mainsail, caused by broken battens, damage was limited to a jib that had the top ripped out and a worrying moment when one of the cables linking the starboard wheel to the rudder parted.

Fair wind blows for Dorset's cup hopefuls

BY EDWARD GORMAN

THE British team representing the Royal Dorset Yacht Club's planned challenge for the 2000 America's Cup, put in an impressive performance in Auckland last week, to finish second in the first of a series of "Road To America's Cup" regattas.

The British crew, skippered by Chris Law and including Lou Varney, Chris Mason, Neal McDonald, and Andy Beadsworth, beat Ed Baird's Young America syndicate from New York, Dawn Riley's San Francisco-based America True team and the France Pacifique syndicate, in the opening round-robin series.

Law then faced the world No 1 match-racer, Russell Coutts, who will defend the cup for New Zealand at the head of the Black Magic team, and lost 4-1. Nevertheless, it was a strong performance by the British crew, who were put together at the last minute.

The British success, however, cannot disguise the fact that the chances of a Royal Dorset syndicate actually participating in the cup are seemingly no stronger now than they were a year ago when the Dorset consortium, led by Chris Witty, first emerged. Witty needs £10-15 million to have a credible crack at the cup and is still looking for it.

In contrast to Witty, who remains busily optimistic, Law seemed pessimistic about the chances of a British boat turning up in 2000. "I can't see how all the pieces will fit together," he was quoted as saying, adding that he was looking at other syndicates, though his preference would be to sail for Britain.

In the BT Global Challenge, meanwhile, Chris Tibbs, on *Concert*, has taken the lead from Mike Golding's *Group 4* in the fourth leg, with fewer than 500 miles left to Cape Town. An elated Tibbs, whose yacht was dismasted on the first Southern Ocean leg, said: "Exhilarating downwind sailing. Thoroughly enjoying being in the lead. It's going to be an exciting finish."



TIM SMITH

Maria Bertelli, of Manchester United Salford, who were narrowly defeated by Malory in the final of the women's National Cup in Sheffield

Tooting finalise towering achievement

David Powell, on a visit to Sheffield, finds change is afoot as British volleyball seeks to catch up with the professionals

When staff at the English Volleyball Association (EVA) turned up for work on the morning after the second round of the men's National Cup, something was not quite right. There was a message saying that London Malory had lost. True or hoax? "We did not believe it," Gillian Harrison, the EVA chief executive, said.

Malory had won 96 consecutive matches. "We checked with three different sources to make sure it was correct," Harrison added. It was. Tooting Aquila had defeated Malory 3-0. Worth every penny of the £700 a year it costs each Aquila player to commit to the National League and Cup. No six-figure salaries in England, like those in Italy, Brazil and Japan.

While Tooting went on to defeat City of Stoke 3-1 on finals day at Ponds Forge, Sheffield, on Saturday, it was left to the Malory women to uphold club honour. Against Manchester United. OK, it was Manchester United Salford, but they were wearing Manchester United colours and they are MUFC-approved.

It was all strikingly different from the Atlanta Olympic Games, when two Malory players, Audrey Cooper and Amanda Glover, were part of the bikini set appearing in beach volleyball. Different not just sartorially, but tactically. Indoors, there are six to a team, outdoors two.

Though Malory won 3-2, neither Cooper nor Jefferson Williams, the coach, was impressed. This was spectator volleyball, more thrilling than classic. "The suspense was good, but not the volleyball," Williams said. "Venessa [Malone] was probably our best player, but she did not play that well."

Great Britain have never made the Olympics at the indoor game. It began to develop in England after the Second World War, with the influx of eastern Europeans, and evidence of that influence remains to this day with the likes of Essex Estonians, Ealing Polonia and Coventry Riga playing in the National League.

The growing number of sports halls in the Seventies and the appointment of professional staff helped to precipitate a surge of interest in the Eighties. The drive to have volleyball taught at schools and teacher training colleges was also critical in the progress towards the present figure of 35,000 players in England.

"It was a big fight to break the traditions of rugby, cricket and football," Don Anthony, the EVA founder, said. The fight continues. "Still the people who govern sport in this country, like John Major and [his Minister for Sport] Iain Sproat, see the team games as football and cricket, but the big world team games are football, basketball and volleyball," Anthony added.

For three years, 20 young players, designated as the elite Britain squad, have been based at Sheffield and Hallam universities and Sheffield College, under a full-time coach. "We suggest those with potential come to Sheffield but they have to achieve academically to get into the universities," Michael McKeever, the EVA technical director, said.

The door remains open to those not based in Sheffield, but achieving the standard to play for Britain is harder from outside. The squad is essential to international progress for, as McKeever conceded: "We are a long way off Olympic standard." The difference between amateurism and professionalism. In Britain there is no professional game.

However, Matthew Jones and Marcus Russell are now playing professionally in France, the first two from the Sheffield project to have made the transition. McKeever expects more to follow.

"To reach Olympic standard, our first step is to get British players playing professionally," he said. Then, perhaps, there will be a phone call to the EVA saying that Britain have qualified for the Olympic Games. And the staff, arriving for work, will believe it.

ROWING: GRAND EIGHT CHAMPION GOES IT ALONE AND DEFIES CROSSWIND

Kettle steams to Scullers Head title

MARTIN KETTLE, of Queens Tower, took the Scullers Head title on Saturday (Mike Rosewell writes). Kettle, a member of the winning Queens Tower Henley grand eight last summer, is aiming for British sculling selection this year and led off the 381 competitors after Peter Haining, the holder, was forced to withdraw because of illness.

Kettle still had to beat two former winners of the event, Olympian Guy Pooley, and Niall O'Toole, the former world champion, of Ireland. Pooley followed Kettle away and pushed him hard. "I took a bit off him in the middle third when a nasty crosswind from Barnes shook people up a bit," Kettle said. The younger man, however, won by 1.50sec in the fourth fastest time in the 43-year history of the event. O'Toole, starting at 131, suffered from bad steering in a strong tailwind and finished fourth, and said: "I did not really deal with the conditions."

The third spot was snatched from O'Toole by Tim Male, from Tideway Scullers, whose doubles partner, Tom Middleton, who is also pushing for selection, rose from 130 to sixth. Tom Gale, another Queens Tower product, finished fifth.

The first woman home was Guin Batten, of Thames, Britain's Olympic finalist, who beat the course record by four seconds and finished 32nd, more than 30 seconds ahead of the second-placed woman, her elder sister, Miriam.

James Di Luzio, 16, from Mortlake, created junior history by finishing tenth.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES 0171-782 7344

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity: W2VS Trust & Others
Scheme: including appointment of Trustee
Reference: 214,020/16753
The Charity Commissioners propose to make a Scheme as mentioned above. A copy of the draft Scheme can be seen at 66 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, WC2E 3LM, or a copy can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to St Alban's House, 57-60 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4QX, quoting the above reference number. Comments or representations on these proposals can be made in writing to the Charity Commissioners within one month from the date of this notice.
Dated the 7th day of April 1997

LEGAL NOTICES

DARTREY LIMITED (IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)
COMPANY NUMBER: 2400596
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: On 21 March 1997 the above company was placed into Members' Voluntary Liquidation and Martin Fishman of PO Box 55, 1 Surrey Street, London, WC2R 2NT was appointed Liquidator by the Members.
The Liquidator gives notice pursuant to Rule 4.182A of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that the creditors of the company must send details, in writing, of any claim against the company to Martin Fishman of PO Box 55, 1 Surrey Street, London, WC2R 2NT by 1 June 1997.
The Liquidator also gives notice under the provision of Rule 4.182A(6) that on 1 July 1997 he intends to make a final return to creditors who have submitted claims by 1 June 1997 and that there will be no further distribution to creditors. The final return to creditors will be made without regard to the claim of any person in respect of a debt not already proved.
The company is able to pay all of its known creditors in full.
Date 27.3.97
M FISHMAN, Liquidator

STARLINE HAULAGE LIMITED
Registered Number: 2822196. Trading Name: Starline Haulage Limited. Nature of Business: Hauliers. Trade Classification: 28. Date of Appointment of Administrative Receivers: 1st April 1997. Name of person appointing the Administrative Receivers: National Westminster Bank Plc. Names of persons appointed: P S Dunn and A E Redmond both of Latham Crossley & Davis, Sherlock Homes, 7 Keyrick Place, London W1H 3PF. (Office Holder Nos. 002268 and 008609). Joint Administrative Receivers.

LEGAL NOTICES

In the matter of Shadesmoor Limited (formerly Pauling (U.K.) Limited
and
In the matter of the Insolvency Act 1986
Notice is hereby given, pursuant to rules 4.182A and 11.2 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, that the liquidator of the above company intends to make a distribution to the creditors of the company within four months from 13 May 1997. Creditors are required to submit full details of their claims to the liquidator at KPMG, PO Box 730, 20 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4PP on or before 12 May 1997 which is the last day for proving claims. The full details of claims, referred to above, must include the creditor's name and address, the amount of the claim and particulars of how and when the debt was incurred by the company.
Notice is also given that the intended distribution is a final distribution and will be made without regard to any claims not made by the last day for proving claims. All funds remaining in the liquidator's hands following the final distribution to creditors shall be distributed to shareholders absolutely.
Note: the company is able to pay all its known creditors in full.
Date 1 April 1997
PJ Belrose
Liquidator

NIKKO GILTS LIMITED (IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)
COMPANY NUMBER: 2669390
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Rules 4.182A and 11.2 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, that the Liquidator of the above company intends to make a distribution to creditors within four months of 2 May 1997. Creditors are required to submit full details of their claims to the Liquidator, Peter Joseph Belrose, KPMG, PO Box 730, 20 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4PP on or before Friday 2 May 1997, which is the last day for proving claims. The full details of claims, referred to above, must include the creditor's name and address, the amount of the claim and particulars of how and when the debt was incurred by the company. Notice is also given that the intended distribution to creditors will be the final distribution to creditors and that it will be made without regard to any claims not made by the last day for proving claims. All funds remaining in the Liquidator's hands following the final distribution to creditors shall be distributed to shareholders absolutely.
Note: the company is able to pay all its known creditors in full.
Dated: 25 March 1997
PJ Belrose - Liquidator

IN THE MATTER OF N.S.M. PLC (In Administration)
and
In the Matter of the Insolvency Act 1986
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of creditors in the above matter is to be held at Arthur Andersen, 1 Surrey Street, London WC2R 2NT on 17th April 1997, at 12.00 pm to consider my proposals under Section 23(1) of the Insolvency Act 1986 and to consider establishing a creditors' committee.
Members requesting a copy of the statement of proposals should do so in writing to N.S.M. Plc (In Administration), Mansfield Road, Hasland, Chesterfield, Derbyshire S41 0JW (for the attention of F.J. McLeish esq).
A.D. Lewis, Administrator

The Insolvency Act 1986
JAMES AND ALBONE LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of the above named Company will be held on 22nd April 1997 at The Old Bakery, Lower Gower Road, Royston, Herts, at 12.00 noon for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 at seq of the said Act.
NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that Maurice Raymond Dorrington, FIPA of Poppleton & Appleby, 4 Chesterhouse Square, London, EC1M 6EN is appointed to act as the qualified Insolvency Practitioner pursuant to Section 98(2)(a) of the said Act who will furnish creditors, free of charge, with such information concerning the Company's affairs as they may reasonably require.
Dated this 27th day of March 1997
By Order of the Board
G M James, Director

STOWMARKET PROPERTIES LIMITED
Company Number 1583425
Notice is hereby given THAT: At an Extraordinary General Meeting of the above company held at 53 Mount Street, W1 on 1 April 1997, a special resolution was passed to authorise the payment of £2,400,000 out of the company's capital in regard to the purchase by the company of 2,400,000 shares of £1 each from Stow Holding SV.
The permissible capital payment was £2,400,000.
The relevant statutory declaration and the report of the auditors dated 27 March 1997 may be inspected at 53 Mount Street, W1 the company's registered office.
Any creditor of the company may apply to the High Court under Section 176 of the Companies Act 1985 within five weeks immediately following the date of the aforesaid special resolution, 1 April 1997 for an Order prohibiting payment.
G M RICHER, Company Secretary
3 April 1997
53 Mount Street, London W1Y 5RE

CHEMICAL WEAPONS ACT 1996

Amendment No 1 to the Open General Licence, dated 1 January 1997 granted by the Secretary of State
Coming into force 1 April 1997
The Secretary of State, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 20 of the Chemical Weapons Act 1996 (c.6), hereby modifies the Open General Licence granted by him on 1 January 1997 as follows:
1. In Clause 3 after sub-clause (2) there shall be inserted -
"(3) A person may only import Chemicals from and export Chemicals to another State Party to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction signed at Paris on 13th January 1993.
(4) If a person has imported a Chemical from a State Party he may only re-export that Chemical to that State Party.".
2. In Clause 4(2) the words "to another Member State of the European Community either of the Chemicals numbered (7) and (8) in the Schedule" shall be deleted and replaced by the words "any Chemicals".
This instrument shall come into force on 1 April 1997.
1 April 1997
An Official of the Department of Trade and Industry authorised to act on behalf of the Secretary of State

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES
TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION PLEASE TELEPHONE
0171-680 6878
OR
FAX: 0171 481 9313
Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

10p THE TIMES
TUESDAY
10p
TIMES
SEE VOUCHER ON PAGE 2.
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THE TIMES

LIBERAL DEMOCRAT MANIFESTO

Increase funding for schools ■ Get people back to work ■ Tax pollution ■ Revive sense of community

How you can make the difference

This will be the last election of this century. And one of its most important. We have ducked the challenges that confront our country for too long. It is time to face them. The choice you make will shape Britain's future for the next 50 years. There are no quick fixes, no instant solutions. Eighteen years of Conservative government have left our society divided, our public services run down, our sense of community fractured and our economy underperforming. There is much to be done.

Yet a terrible fatalism seems to grip politicians. Though the challenges are immense, the solutions we are offered are all too often puny. We are told we can't ask people to pay more for a better education. Or change the way we live to protect our environment. Or share more to give better opportunities to those who have less. Or modernise our politics to give people more say.

We are in politics not just to manage things better, but to make things happen. To build a more prosperous, fair and open society. We believe in the market economy as the best way to deliver prosperity and distribute economic benefits. But we recognise that market mechanisms on their own are not enough; that the private sector alone cannot ensure that there are good services for everyone, or promote employment opportunities, or tackle economic inequality, or protect the environment for future generations. We believe in a society in which every citizen shares rights and responsibilities. But, we recognise that a strong country is built from the bottom, not the top; that conformity quickly becomes the enemy of diversity.

Above all, Liberal Democracy is about liberty. That does not just mean freedom from oppressive government. It means providing all citizens with the opportunity to build worthwhile lives for themselves and their families and helping them to recognise their responsibilities to the wider community. Liberal Democrats believe the role of democratic government is to protect and strengthen liberty, to redress the balance between the powerful and the weak, between rich and poor and between immediate gains and long-term environmental costs. That is the Liberal Democrat vision: of active government which invests in people, promotes their long-term prosperity and welfare, safeguards their security, and is answerable to them for its actions.

Much of what we propose here requires no money — only political will. But where extra investment is required we say where it will come from. The purpose of this manifesto is to widen opportunities for all. And its aim is to build a nation of self-reliant individuals, living in strong communities, backed by an enabling government. Rt Hon Paddy Ashdown



Ashdown: no quick fixes

EDUCATION



■ **Our first priority is to:**
☐ Give children the best start by *providing high quality early years education for every 3 and 4 year-old child whose parents want it.*

■ **Key priorities are to:**
☐ Increase funding for books and equipment in schools. In the first year, we will double spending on books and equipment to overcome the effect of recent cuts.
☐ Reduce primary school class sizes so that within 5 years no child between 5 and 11 will need to be in a class of more than 30.
☐ Tackle the backlog of repair and maintenance to buildings with £500m additional investment over 5 years.
☐ Boost chances for all adults to improve their skills and get better qualifications.

■ **Making the best start**
Early years education is the essential building block for higher standards and achievement later on. Every £1 spent on high quality under-fives education raises standards in later life and adds up to £7 of value to the nation's economy. We will:
☐ Give children the best start by providing high quality early years education for every 3 and 4 year-old child whose parents want it. This will be the first call on our £2 billion annual programme of extra investment in education.
☐ *Promote high standards in early years education.* We will set minimum standards for care, curriculum and premises. We will ensure that those in early years education are supervised by qualified staff.
☐ *Provide choice in early years education.* We will scrap the bureaucratic voucher scheme.
We will ensure a variety of provision from a wide range of public, private and voluntary providers.
☐ Raising standards in schools. We will raise standards in schools, especially in literacy and numeracy, which are still far too low.
☐ Improve teaching standards. We will set up a General Teaching Council, charged with improving teaching standards and making teaching a profession to be proud of again. We will provide more opportunities for professional development and reward excellence in teaching. We will help poor teachers improve, but if they cannot, we will ensure they do not continue to teach.
☐ Encourage schools to succeed. We will strengthen the inspection system so that it helps schools and we will extend inspection to monitoring Local Education Authorities (LEAs).
☐ Strengthen discipline in schools. We will support teachers in maintaining discipline and provide them with the means to do so — for example, by providing better access to special referral units. We will require every school to develop a policy to tackle bullying and truancy. We will launch a national Truancy Watch scheme. We will oblige LEAs to fulfil their responsibilities to educate pupils excluded or suspended from school.
☐ Measure achievement in pupils and schools. We will give every pupil a Personal Record of Achievement which will enable them to build up a set of nationally accredited qualifications and record their other achievements. We will require schools to publish meaningful information on their standards, achievements and plans for the future.
☐ Improve the National Curriculum. We will replace the National Curriculum with a more focused and flexible Minimum Curriculum Entitlement. We will ensure that religious education provides pupils with an understanding of the major traditions of belief in this country.
☐ Boost literacy. We will establish special literacy programmes involving parents with teachers in a drive to ensure that 90 per cent of all pupils reach their expected reading age by 2005

■ **Investing in schools**
Extra investment for well-equipped classrooms and better-maintained buildings is essential if standards are to improve. We will:
☐ Increase funding for books and equipment in schools. In the first year, we will double spending on books and equipment to overcome the effect of recent cuts. A typical primary school of 250 pupils will get an extra £16,000. A typical secondary school of 1,000 pupils will get an extra £110,000.
☐ Reduce primary school class sizes so that within 5 years no child between 5 and 11 will need to be in a class of more than 30.
☐ Tackle the backlog of repairs. We will invest an additional £500 million over 5 years in repairing crumbling and unsafe buildings.
☐ Support children with special needs. We will fully fund the implementation of the Code of Practice for Special Educational Needs.

■ **A new partnership for schools**
Involving parents in the education of their children and ensuring schools are supported by local communities are both essential to achieving higher standards and a better use of resources. We will:
☐ Increase the role of parents in education. We will extend home/school/pupil links, develop home-school partnership arrangements and support parents with information and resources to help them help their child. We will require the schools inspection service to report on home-school partnerships as part of school inspections. We will promote school councils and guarantee automatic representation on governing bodies to staff and, where appropriate, students.
☐ Open up schools to the whole community. We will encourage schools to develop courses for parents, build links with local leisure organisations to open up school sports facilities to the community and work with local businesses to provide improved computer education.
☐ Give all schools more independence and allow them to develop their own styles and strengths. We will devolve as many powers as possible to schools and give them more control over their budgets. We will make new "light touch" LEAs responsible for those functions that cannot be undertaken by individual schools on their own, such as coordination, planning and monitoring standards. We will bring grant-maintained schools and City Technology Colleges into this new framework and scrap the Funding Agency for Schools. Liberal Democrats are opposed to selection, but believe that decisions on this should be made by local communities through their local Councils and not by politicians at Westminster.
☐ Recognise the valuable role of church schools in the maintained sector. We will initiate a dialogue with all the major faiths about the role they wish to play in education in the future. Where any of the major faiths wish to establish publicly funded voluntary schools we will enable them to do so, provided that they enjoy substantial community support, offer acceptable programmes of study, provide equality of opportunity and are able to deliver the Minimum Curriculum Entitlement.
☐ Forge a new partnership with the independent sector. We will encourage independent schools to work with state schools. We will phase out the Assisted Places Scheme and use the money saved to enable LEAs, if they wish, to enter into local partnership schemes. These could include assisting the funding of pupils at independent schools. Pupils currently covered by the Assisted Places Scheme would, however, be protected until they finish their studies. We will require independent schools to offer the Minimum Curriculum Entitlement. We will extend charitable status to all schools without affecting total Council funding and maintain the VAT exemption on school fees.

■ **Extending life-long learning**
In the information age, education must be a life-long activity from which people can benefit anywhere and at any time, rather than being something that only happens in school. We will:
☐ Widen access to further education. We will give every person an Individual Learning Account as the basis for life-long post-school education with contributions made by the state, individuals and employers. Our aim is that the state contribution will be at least equivalent to the cost of fees on approved courses. We will replace the Student Loans Scheme with a fair repayment scheme linked to salaries in later life. We oppose top-up fees for tuition. Our aim is to ensure that students on approved courses (including part-time courses) up to first degree level are treated equally.
☐ Promote flexible learning. We will create a higher standard credit-based system for all post-14 courses, including the current A-levels and degree courses. We will work with the private sector to link all schools to the Information Super Highway and ensure that they have the equipment and skills to take advantage of this.
☐ Promote training in the workplace. To support companies that invest in education and training, and to encourage others to do so, we will introduce a 2 per cent remissible levy on company payrolls. This would be deductible against the cost of providing accredited training or making contributions to the Individual Learning Account. Small businesses will be exempt. We will give Training and Enterprise Councils the leading role in forging local partnerships to meet youth training and employment needs.
☐ Expand training opportunities for young people. Our aim is to ensure that 16-19 year-olds receive the equivalent of at least 2 days a week education or on-the-job training.
☐ Boost chances for all adults to improve their skills and get better qualifications. We will ensure that all adults on approved courses or training have access to financial support, either through their Individual Learning Accounts or from their employer using our new remissible training levy.
☐ Improve the quality of tertiary courses. We will create a new Quality Council to ensure high standards and value for money in all post-16 education and training courses.
☐ Secure academic freedom. We will ensure the funding of university teaching and research, safeguard academic freedom and standards.

JOBS & ECONOMY



■ **Our priorities are to:**
☐ Provide stability in economic management to encourage long-term investment.
☐ Raise the quality of Britain's workforce and get people back to work.
☐ Promote enterprise and small businesses.
☐ Begin to shift taxation from jobs, wealth and goods to pollution and the depletion of natural resources.

■ **Investing in Britain's future**
Long-term investment and economic stability are crucial to future economic success. We will:

☐ Secure stable prices and low interest rates. We will turn the Bank of England into a UK Reserve Bank, free from political interference. We will charge the Bank with keeping inflation low and make it accountable to Parliament for achieving this goal. Lower inflation and greater exchange rate stability can be better secured by working with Britain's European partners. The best framework for this is a single European currency and it is in Britain's interests to take part in this.
However, three conditions must be met before this can happen. First, the single currency must be firmly founded on the Maastricht criteria. Second, Britain must meet those criteria. Third, the British people must have said "yes" in a referendum. If these conditions for a single currency are in place, Britain should join.

☐ Ensure responsible economic management. We will keep to the "golden rule" of public finance: over the economic cycle, total borrowing should not exceed total investment. We will make the Government accountable to Parliament for keeping to this rule, and subject it to independent monitoring. We will cut wasteful spending and ensure new spending delivers value for money.

☐ Build up Britain's capital assets. We will distinguish between capital and current spending in the national accounting system. We will promote effective public/private investment partnerships at both national and local levels, with Councils' borrowing carefully controlled.

☐ Put Britain's people back to work. We will enable long-term unemployed people to turn their unemployment benefits into "working benefits" paid to an employer to recruit and train them. We will break open the poverty traps that stop unemployed people from working. Our plans for boosting investment in infrastructure, promoting small businesses and encouraging energy conservation will create hundreds of thousands of new jobs.

☐ Invest in a highly skilled workforce. Our investment of an additional £2 billion a year in education and training will improve skills and increase the nation's knowledge base.

☐ Promote environmental sustainability. We will begin a long-term shift in taxation, reducing taxes on jobs, wealth and goods and shifting them to pollution and resource depletion. We will use new national indicators of progress which include measures of quality of life and environmental sustainability.

☐ Encourage people to save. Our aim is to extend the advantages of TESSAs and PEPs to a wider range of savers by developing a new save-as-you-earn scheme. We will encourage personal and portable pension plans.

■ **Investing in enterprise**
Small business, enterprise and self-employment are the engine of a modern dynamic economy and a vital source of new jobs and growth. We will:

☐ Support small and medium-sized businesses. We will encourage the banks to develop new sources of private finance, including grants, equity finance and mutual guarantee schemes. We will seek to expand the sources of "seed-corn" capital. We will legislate for a statutory right to interest on late debt payments. We will require the banks to develop new codes of banking practice for small businesses. We will cut red tape, for example by stopping European institutions interfering where they shouldn't and by preventing Whitehall departments "gold-plating" European regulations with extra rules. We will, in the long-term, abolish the Uniform Business Rate and bring in a new, fairer local rating system. We will ensure that government purchasing gives special emphasis and easier access to small and medium-sized firms.
☐ Boost regional and local economies. We will set up regionally-based Development Agencies to build new partnerships between small businesses, local Councils, Business Links, TECs and local Chambers of Commerce. We will encourage these bodies to come together to provide "one-stop shops". We will enable councils to raise capital for local infrastructure investment, where they work in partnership with the private sector. We will encourage industrial development by promoting geographical centres of industrial excellence.
☐ Invest in research and innovation. We will expand support for science and research by shifting government funds away from military research and development and into civil science and research, and improve specialist research facilities for industry. We will encourage regional technology transfer centres to bring together the resources of industry, universities and government laboratories.
☐ Promote tourism. We will bring together the marketing and infrastructure work of government, local Councils and tourist boards. We will ensure that local communities are involved in the planning of tourist developments from the earliest stages.
☐ Build new partnerships at work. We will give employees new rights to consultation and participation in decisions and give companies and their employees access to advice on the forms of partnership which best suit them. We will promote profit-sharing, mutual structures and employee share-ownership schemes. We will extend the benefits of the Social Chapter of the Maastricht Treaty to all UK employees, while resisting the adoption of new rules that unnecessarily harm job opportunities.
☐ Encourage a culture of long-term business investment. We will require companies to publish information on their long-term investment achievements, including environmental performance, research and development, and training. We will introduce greater shareholder control over directors' pay and appointments.
☐ Promote British exports. We will make export promotion and commercial activity a higher priority for British Embassies.

■ **Making Britain more competitive**
A competitive domestic economy is essential if British companies are to succeed in the global market. We will:

☐ Strengthen the law on competition. We will tighten the rules on monopolies and adopt a pro-competition stance on takeovers and mergers. We will combine the Monopolies and Mergers Commission and the Office of Fair Trading into a single powerful body, independent of government and charged with promoting competition.
☐ Give consumers more power. We will promote the establishment of industry-wide Ombudsmen schemes to improve complaints procedures and consumer redress. We will strengthen customer guarantees, improve product standards and labelling, especially for environmental purposes, and encourage products that are easier to repair, reuse and recycle. We will insist on clear labelling for food products which include genetically modified ingredients.

☐ Reform the privatised utilities. We will combine the existing regulators into a single Office of Utility Regulation, reporting to a Cabinet Minister responsible for consumer affairs. This new office will contain a regulatory board for each industry and will be charged with protecting the consumer and ensuring that excess profits are used to reduce prices and increase investment in improved services. Starting with the water industry, we will encourage utilities to involve their consumers in ownership and control of their company, through mutual structures.

☐ Reinforce consumer and investor protection. We will introduce independent regulation of financial services and improve processes for redress (eg: for mis-selling). We will protect pension and life assurance savings from fraud. We will work to maintain the City of London's pre-eminence as a financial centre and promote effective international banking standards.

ENVIRONMENT



■ **Our priorities are to:**
☐ Cut taxes on things we want to encourage, like jobs, by taxing pollution instead. This will not mean more tax, it will mean taxing differently.
☐ Build environmental objectives into every government policy.
☐ Set tough targets to cut energy waste, reduce traffic congestion and control pollution.

■ **A greener economy**
Environmental protection must be built into every economic decision and every area of government policy. We will:

☐ Set tough new targets for the reduction of traffic pollution and waste. This will help reduce global warming, cut air pollution and prevent waste. Our targets include cutting carbon dioxide emissions (the main cause of climate change) by 30 per cent from the 1990 level over the next 15 years. ☐ Cut VAT and taxes on jobs, and make up the difference by taxing pollution instead. This will help create more jobs and a better standard of living.

☐ Adopt a Green Action Programme. We will set targets for sustainability and biodiversity, to be met by central and local government. We will measure these by using new indicators of quality of life, progress and wealth. The Prime Minister will report to Parliament each year on the country's success in meeting these environmental targets.
☐ Protect the local environment. We will pass stronger laws to conserve the countryside. We will cut road congestion and help local Councils make Britain's towns and cities healthier and cleaner places to live.
☐ Improve the way environment policy is made. Environment policy is currently buried, with housing and local government, in a huge single Government Department. We will put environment and energy policy within a separate, new department and ensure that all government departments and agencies pursue environmentally friendly policies. We will give the Environment Agency stronger powers to enforce compliance with environmental laws.

■ **Transporting people, tackling pollution**
Travel delays and road congestion cost billions of pounds, and pollution damages the health of millions of people. We will:

☐ Invest in public transport by building new partnerships with the private sector. We will enable Councils to introduce road pricing in the most congested urban areas and use the money to support clean and rapid public transport, and to improve cycle and pedestrian access. We will retain London Underground in public ownership and give it the right to seek private finance for new investment without an assured government guarantee.

☐ Treble the freight and double the number of passengers carried on Britain's railways by the year 2010. We will strengthen the powers of the rail regulators. We will require Railtrack to meet targets for greater investment and increased passenger and freight traffic. We will withhold public subsidies from Railtrack if the targets are not met and, in the case of persistent failure, use the funds to reacquire a controlling interest in Railtrack. We will provide for legislation enabling this.

☐ Encourage people to drive more fuel-efficient cars by cutting the annual car tax, from £145 to £10 for cars up to 1600cc, over the period of the next Parliament, funded by gradually raising the duty on fuel by approximately 4p per litre. Under our proposals, a person with a typical family car could drive up to 23,000 miles per year and still be better off — even in rural areas, where the average motorist only drives 11,700 miles a year. We will reform tax relief on company cars to encourage smaller cars and give people new incentives to use public transport for getting to work.

☐ Reduce the need to travel. We will reform the planning system so that people have easier access to shops, offices and facilities, and promote the use of information technology to decentralise work.

■ **Warmer homes, saving energy**
Official government figures show that half the energy used in Britain is wasted. This pushes up fuel bills, worsens pollution and speeds up global warming. We will:

☐ Cut fuel bills and make homes warmer. We will launch a National Homes Insulation programme to end fuel poverty starting with the 2 million lowest income households. Our proposals will be funded by the Energy Saving Trust and the energy supply companies. This will save these households an average £85 per year and reduce global warming emissions. By contrast, cutting VAT on fuel bills to 5 per cent would save the average household only £19 per year.

☐ Cut taxes on people by taxing pollution instead. To encourage energy saving, we will gradually introduce a "carbon tax" on fossil fuels, using the funds raised to cut VAT and employers' National Insurance Contributions (the tax on jobs). This is a tax switch, not a tax rise, and will be phased in gradually.
☐ Improve energy efficiency. We will bring in new minimum standards for the energy efficiency of products, buildings and vehicles. We will cut VAT on energy conservation materials to 8 per cent — the same as for energy supplies.
☐ Promote renewable sources of energy and combined heat and power schemes. We will shift funds from nuclear research into decommissioning and nuclear waste management, and support research for renewable energy sources. We will not provide any government subsidies for nuclear generation. We support on-site dry storage of nuclear waste, pending the long-term development of safe alternatives. Nuclear stations will not be replaced at the end of their design life.

■ **Protecting Britain's heritage**
Britain's natural environment and heritage are being gradually destroyed. We will:
☐ Clean up Britain's rivers and beaches and ensure that the costs of investment are spread fairly. We will require water companies to contribute to the cost of national environmental projects. We will reduce the need for new water developments by setting targets to reduce leakage and by promoting efficiency in water use. We will introduce a fairer system of charging for water and require water companies to share excess profits with their customers through rebates or investments in environmental improvements. We will end, within 10 years, discharges that cause unnecessary water pollution.
☐ Tackle marine oil pollution. We will implement tougher rules on shipping safety and bring forward the designation of marine high risk areas.
☐ Reform land use planning. We will make protection of the natural environment a major feature of the planning system through a new Wildlife Act. This will improve protection of National Parks, Heritage Coasts, Sites Of Special Scientific Interest and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
☐ Green the countryside. Our proposed new Countryside Management Contracts will help farmers to protect vital habitats and convert to more environmentally-friendly farming methods. We will use tax and planning reforms to protect rural areas, encouraging development on derelict land sites rather than green fields.

■ **Thinking globally, acting locally**
Most people understand the importance of thinking globally and acting locally. They want to play their part in protecting the environment. Government should help them do so. We will:
☐ Encourage the manufacture of products that are easier to repair, reuse or recycle. We will introduce deposit refund schemes and back EU-wide standards for product design, energy efficiency and reuse. ☐ Help people to choose environmentally friendly products. We will press for comprehensive and understandable EU-wide ecologically friendly and energy efficient labelling schemes.

■ **Promoting animal welfare**
The way a society treats animals is a measure of its civilisation. We will:

☐ Promote animal welfare. We will set up a compulsory national dog registration scheme. We will halt the trade in endangered species as pets. We will promote and extend training and qualification for those who work with livestock. We will insist on the enforcement of maximum time limits and for transporting live animals in the EU, a stricter timetable for banning veal crates and improved rearing conditions for pigs and chickens across the EU. We will create an Animal Protection Commission to enforce animal welfare laws and improve animal welfare standards. We will ban animal testing for cosmetics, weapons and tobacco products. We will review the law in order to reduce the use of animals in scientific experiments and seek the development of alternatives.

☐ Protect wild animals. We believe that the issues of hunting with hounds and coursing should be decided by free votes in the House of Commons. We will ban snares and leg hold traps. We will press for stronger international laws to protect endangered species. We will ban the importation of products derived from threatened wild animals.

COMMUNITY



■ **Our priorities are to:**
☐ Put 3,000 more police officers on the beat.
☐ Build more affordable and secure housing.
☐ End, by the year 2000, the scandal of people being forced to sleep rough on the streets.
☐ Revive Britain's sense of community.

■ **Housing**
Boom and bust house prices, a shortage of decent homes and poor housing have wrecked the lives of millions and damaged Britain's economy. We will:
☐ Build more houses. We will encourage partnerships between the public sector, the private sector and housing associations to build high quality homes to rent and buy. We will, within strict borrowing controls, give local authorities more powers to go directly to the market to raise finance for building new homes. We will begin the phased release of capital receipts from past sales of Council houses and allow the money to be used to build new homes.
☐ Give financial security to all, whether they rent or own their homes. We will introduce a new Mortgage Benefit for first time buyers. They will receive this instead of Mortgage Interest Tax Relief. Those holding current mortgages will retain Mortgage Interest Tax Relief. Our aim is, over time, to merge the new Mortgage Benefit and the current Housing Benefit into one system of housing cost relief, available to those who buy or rent and focused on those most in need.
☐ End the scandal of people being forced to sleep rough on the streets. We will ensure that by the year 2000 no one is forced to sleep on the streets. We will require every Council to set up self-funding rent deposit schemes to help homeless people take up private tenancies. We will fund more short-stay hostel places as the first rung on the ladder to permanent accommodation.
☐ Take action to tackle homelessness and raise housing standards. We will give Councils greater power to act on unfit private housing, where the landlord has failed to do so. We will strengthen tenants' rights to repair and, in the public sector, give them rights to take part in the management and development of their homes and estates. Our Empty Homes Strategy will enable local authorities to work with, and as a last resort require, landlords to bring empty properties back into use. We will end discrimination against those under 25 by scrapping the "shared residency rule" when assessing housing benefit.
☐ Bring confidence back to the housing market by targeting low inflation and low interest rates.

■ **Crime and policing**
Crime and the fear of crime affect almost every person and every community in the country. We will:
☐ Put 3,000 more police officers on the beat. Within one year, we will give police authorities the resources to put an extra 3,000 police officers on the beat. We will increase the time the police spend on preventing and detecting crime by reducing unnecessary paperwork and making greater use of new technologies.
☐ Tackle youth crime. We will widen the use of schemes that require offenders to repay their debt to society and to confront the consequences of their actions. We will, where appropriate, require parents to participate in support projects where their children have been involved in juvenile crime. We will develop schemes that target disruptive children from an early age. We will reserve custodial sentences for more serious and persistent offenders. Our voluntary Citizens Service will enable young people to get directly involved in crime prevention schemes.
☐ Strengthen the criminal justice system. We will make the justice system work more quickly and effectively and review sentencing policy. We will overhaul the Crown Prosecution Service. We will encourage the use of community sentences, as an alternative to prison, where the result is likely to be less reoffending, and use prison sentences where they are essential to public protection or to make punishment effective. We will concentrate resources on crime prevention and on increasing conviction rates, rather than spending billions on building prisons.
☐ Focus on crime prevention. We will require Councils to take the lead in establishing cross-community partnerships against crime, setting specific targets for crime prevention. We will give Councils powers and resources to support high-quality, targeted crime prevention.
☐ Wage war on drug abuse. We will give the Police and Customs and Excise the support they need to stop drugs coming into Britain. We will set up a Royal Commission charged with developing policies to tackle the drugs problem at its roots. ☐ Give victims a new deal. We will promote restorative justice, under which offenders can be required to compensate victims for the damage they have caused. We will ensure that the Victim Support movement and the Witness Support schemes play a full role in the criminal justice system. We will provide victims with the practical support they need to prevent repeat attacks.
☐ Strengthen public confidence in the police. We will make police authorities more responsive to local communities by increasing their elected membership and creating an accountable police authority for London. We will improve co-operation between police forces and work more closely with Britain's European partners to combat international crime, terrorism, drug trafficking and fraud. We will ensure that the police take further steps to reduce the level of racial and homophobic violence.

■ **Rural communities**
Britain's rural economy and communities have been transformed over the last fifty years. The challenge for the next fifty years is to protect and enhance the richness of rural life, while developing a thriving rural economy. We will:
☐ Seek further reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). We will work to replace the CAP, which currently subsidises production, with Countryside Management Contracts — a targeted system of direct payments to support economic, social and environmental goals in rural communities. Countryside Management Contracts will enable farmers and landowners to choose from a wide range of options, for example, to improve the rural environment, maximise food quality, protect natural habitats or move to less intensive or organic farming methods.
☐ Help rural economies through a period of change. We will, in partnership with the agriculture industry, draw up a national strategy for farming in order to provide a framework for public policy and private decision-making over the next ten years. We will promote agricultural research and development, and assist farmers wishing to diversify. We will promote local processing of agricultural products and expand support for small and medium-sized enterprises in rural areas.
☐ Tackle rural crime. We will put more police into rural areas, support Farm and Neighbourhood Watch schemes and give Councils the duty to set up crime prevention schemes with the local police. We will enable rural police authorities to introduce mortgage incentive schemes to encourage rural beat officers to live in the areas they serve.
☐ Enhance rural services. We will support smaller village schools through greater use of information technology and specialist teaching teams. We will encourage schemes that enable local communities to make use of school buildings and equipment. We will promote community hospitals and use them for more out-patient consultations.
☐ Provide more affordable rural housing. We will encourage housing authorities, Parish Councils and housing associations to set up partnership schemes with the private sector in order to build low-cost homes for first-time home buyers and social needs.
☐ Improve rural transport. We will give local authorities the power to improve the co-ordination of local bus services and to reopen closed railway stations, in co-operation with Railtrack. ☐ Strengthen the network of rural sub-post offices and village shops. We will encourage the Post Office to invest in new point of sale technologies, in order to provide access, through sub-post offices, to a wide range of customer services. Where post offices and village shops which are vital to their local community are threatened, we will enable local Councils to support them with up to 100 per cent rate relief.
☐ Protect the countryside. We will help landowners meet the environmental costs of increased access to the countryside. We will take action to reduce the use of chemicals in farming.
☐ Protect rural areas from urbanisation. We will penalise the use of greenfield sites, set and enforce targets for greater use of brownland sites and encourage over-the-shop accommodation in market town centres. We will review the excessive housing totals in the current structure plans and scrap the "predict and provide" approach to housing development.
☐ Work to preserve fish stocks and protect the livelihoods of local fishing communities. Our aim is to scrap the Common Fisheries Policy and replace it with a new Europe-wide fisheries policy based on the regional management of fish stocks. We will take firm action to end quota-hopping, begin the phased abolition of industrial fishing and strengthen decommissioning.
☐ Promote safe food. We will set up a Food Commission, independent from MAFF and accountable to Parliament, maintain strict controls on the use of bio-technology and press for higher common food standards across the European Union.

Continued on facing page

PETER NICHOLLS



Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, with Alan Beith, left, and Malcolm Bruce, after the launch of the party's election manifesto at Church House, Westminster, last week

Restore trust in government ■ Ensure dignity in retirement ■ Recruit more frontline NHS staff

■ ***Urban communities***
Britain's towns and cities offer civic pride, accessible facilities and, potentially, a high quality of life. However, many suffer from alienation, joblessness, high crime rates, a run-down environment and loss of population. Urban areas should offer excitement, security and a strong sense of community. We will:
☐ Boost local economic development and job opportunities. We will support local development corporations. We will build new partnerships between local government and the private and voluntary sectors, to regenerate local economies and promote community enterprise. We will link local training to local jobs. We will encourage the establishment of community banks and credit unions.
☐ Tackle urban crime. We will expand community policing, ensure that all new planning takes account of the need to deter crime and focus on crime prevention.
☐ Encourage public transport. We will enable Councils to co-ordinate bus and train services and give them powers to introduce urban road pricing schemes, using the revenue raised to invest in better public transport.
☐ Reform and strengthen elected local government. We will give local Councils greater control over their own affairs. We will create a strategic authority for London. We will encourage the use of "planning for real" strategies, in which local people can make a direct input into major planning projects in their community.

■ **Arts and media**
Flourishing arts and a diverse culture are essential for a lively and open society. They can be engines of innovation that bring life to the economy. At the same time, the world is experiencing an information revolution as important and far-reaching as the Industrial Revolution. Britain must maintain a free and effective media capable of being a check on the abuse of power, and of giving people the information they need to make informed decisions. We will:
☐ Tackle the concentration of media power. We will act to prevent media mergers or take-overs, except where these can be shown to advance quality, diversity and access. We will require the Independent Television Commission to protect the position of smaller regional ITV companies, within the network supply agreement.
☐ Maintain the role of the BBC as the benchmark of public service broadcasting, committed to quality, diversity and universal access. We will protect the independence and impartiality of the BBC through its Board of Governors and its licence fee.
☐ Improve access to information technology and the Internet. We will ensure that everyone in Britain can have access, either individually or through a wide range of public access points, to a nationwide interactive communications network by the year 2000.
☐ Increase access to the arts. We will use the National Lottery to endow, house and improve access to the arts. We aim to move towards the European average for public funding of the arts. We aim to restore the principle of free access to national museum and gallery collections, starting with the removal of charges for school parties.
☐ Promote Britain's culture. We will promote film production in Britain. We will actively support the British Council and rejoin Unesco. We will enhance the BBC World Service as a national asset.

POLITICS



■ **Our priorities are to:**
☐ Restore trust between people and government, by ending secrecy and guaranteeing peoples' rights and freedoms.
☐ Renew Britain's democracy, by creating a fair voting system, reforming Parliament and setting higher standards for politicians' conduct.
☐ Give government back to the people, by decentralising power to the nations, regions and communities of the United Kingdom.

■ ***Restoring trust in politics***
British politics remains far too secretive. We cannot rebuild trust in politics without making government more open and accountable. We will:
☐ Safeguard individual liberties, by establishing a Bill of Rights. As a first step, we will incorporate the European Convention on Human Rights into UK law so that it is enforceable by the courts in the UK. We will set up a Human Rights Commission to strengthen the protection of individual rights. We will create a Ministry for Justice responsible for protecting human rights and overseeing the administration of the legal system, the courts and legal aid. We oppose the introduction of Identity Cards.
☐ Break open the excessive secrecy of government, by passing a Freedom of Information Act establishing a citizens right to know.
☐ Cut back the quango state. We will scrap unnecessary quangos, handing their functions over to elected bodies. We will require those that remain to meet in public and to list their members' interests. We will establish a fair, open and more representative appointment process for all quangos.
☐ Give people more say in decision-making. We will make greater use of national referendums for constitutional issues, for example, changing the voting system or any further transfer of power to European institutions. We will enable referendums to be held on specific local issues where there is public demand.

■ **Renewing democracy**
Britain's political institutions are outdated and unrepresentative. We will:
☐ Modernise the House of Commons. We will reduce the number of MPs by 200 (one-third) and introduce tougher rules for their conduct, behaviour and outside sources of income. We will improve drafting and consultation on legislation, and strengthen MPs' ability to hold the government to account.
☐ Create an effective and democratic upper house. We will, over two Parliaments, transform the House of Lords into a predominantly elected second chamber capable of representing the nations and regions of the UK and of playing a key role in scrutinising European legislation.
☐ Introduce a fair system of voting. We will introduce proportional representation for all elections, to put more power in the hands of voters and make government more representative.
☐ Make politics more stable. We will establish a fixed parliamentary term of four years.
☐ Clean up party funding. We will reform the way political parties are funded and limit the amount they can spend on national election campaigns. We will make each party publish its accounts and list all large donors.

■ **Giving government back to the people**
Far too much power has been concentrated in Westminster and Whitehall. Democratic government should be as close to ordinary people as possible. We will:
☐ Introduce Home Rule for Scotland, with the creation of a Scottish Parliament, elected by proportional representation, and able to raise and reduce income tax.
☐ Introduce Home Rule for Wales, with the creation of a Welsh Senedd, elected by proportional representation, and able to raise and reduce income tax.
☐ Create the framework to make existing regional decision-making in England democratically accountable, and enable the establishment of elected regional assemblies, where there is demonstrated public demand. We will create a strategic authority for London.
☐ Strengthen local government. We will establish a "power of general competence", giving Councils wider scope for action. We will allow local authorities to raise more of their funds locally, give them greater discretion over spending and allow them, within strict limits, to go directly to the markets to raise finance for capital projects. We will, in the long-term replace Council Tax with a Local Income Tax, and replace the Uniform Business Rate with a fairer system of business rates, raised through local Councils and set in accordance with local priorities.

■ **Northern Ireland**
Peace in Northern Ireland depends on containing and ultimately removing the entrenched hostility between the two main communities in Northern Ireland. We will:
☐ Establish a power-sharing executive for Northern Ireland, elected under a fair and proportional system of voting. We will press for a new constitutional settlement based on the protection of individual rights through a Bill of Rights, incorporating the European Convention.
☐ Give individuals more power and political responsibility. We will introduce a fair and proportional voting system for all elections, and reform and strengthen local government in the province.
☐ Ensure respect for civil liberties. We will introduce an independent procedure for investigating complaints against the security forces, and reform the Diplock system so that three judges instead of one preside over non-jury trials. We will urgently implement the North Report's recommendations for an independent commission to supervise parades and marches.
☐ Promote economic growth. We will strengthen the all-Ireland economy through the creation of effective cross-border agencies. We will invest in education and promote inward investment.
☐ Build on the Joint Declaration and the Framework Document, by working with the Irish Government to create agreement between as many of the constitutional parties as possible. Sinn Fein can only be admitted to this process if, in accordance with the Mitchell principles, they and the IRA turn their backs on terrorism. Meanwhile, we must remain vigilant and keep in place the present means for countering terrorism.

OPPORTUNITIES



■ **Our priorities are to:**
☐ Ensure that, by the millennium, every young person has had the opportunity to work, learn, train and make a positive contribution to society.
☐ Give women greater opportunities to play a full role in work and in society.
☐ Ensure dignity in retirement.
☐ Break open the poverty trap that makes people better off on the dole than in work.
☐ Modernise Britain's welfare state for the twenty-first century, building a new cross-party partnership for reform.

■ **Breaking the poverty trap**
Unemployment wastes the talents and denies people the opportunity to contribute to the well-being of their families and increases Britain's wealth. We will:
☐ Help long-term unemployed people back to work. We will establish a self-financing Benefit Transfer Programme allowing those who have been unemployed for a year or more to turn their unemployment benefits into an incentive for employers to recruit and train them. The value of the benefit to employers will be reduced.
☐ Break open the poverty trap. We will take nearly 500,000 low earners out of income tax altogether by raising tax thresholds. This will provide lower taxes and new incentives to work, while cutting the benefits bill and reducing tax for 99.5 per cent of all income taxpayers. This will be paid for by introducing a new top tax rate of 50p on taxable income of over £100,000 per year. We will replace Income Support and Family Credit with a simpler, more efficient Low Income Benefit that increases financial incentives.
☐ Modernise Britain's welfare system. We will initiate a comprehensive review of the welfare system to build a new framework for welfare and opportunity, on a cross-party basis. Our aim is to provide a more effective safety net for the disadvantaged, to encourage work, without compulsion, and to widen opportunities.
☐ Help parents to return to work. We will develop a national childcare strategy, drawing on public and private provision. We will, over time, extend tax relief on workplace nurseries to other forms of day nursery care.
☐ Establish a voluntary Citizens Service to give people, especially young people, up to two years' work on such projects as environmental conservation, crime prevention, housing renovation, social services and the armed services.
☐ Encourage a flexible labour market, while protecting the low paid with a regionally variable, minimum hourly rate.
☐ Crack down on social security fraud and tax evasion and shift the money saved into new policies to enhance opportunities. We will tackle the high levels of fraud and overpayment in the social security budget. We will stop tax evasion.

■ **Older people**
Everyone in Britain should be able to look forward to a retirement of security, opportunity and dignity. Old people feel that they are fast becoming Britain's forgotten generation. We will:
☐ Guarantee everyone an acceptable minimum standard of living in retirement. We will create an additional top-up pension for pensioners with incomes below the Income Support level. This will be indexed to earnings and tapered as outside income increases. The basic state pension will remain indexed to prices. We will start to phase out the expensive, unfair contributory system and base the right to a state pension on citizenship and residence.
☐ Enable people to choose when to start drawing a pension. We will bring in a flexible "decade of retirement".
☐ Protect the rights of older people. We will legislate against discrimination on the grounds of age.
☐ Expand private pensions and give people more control over their pensions. We wish to see more people making provision for their old age. We will replace the State Earnings Related Scheme (Serps) with a scheme under which all employees have personal or occupational pensions. Existing accrued Serps will, however, be preserved. We will expand occupational and personal pension schemes by giving all employees an entitlement to participate in a pension scheme of their choice, funded by contributions from employers and employees. Pension rights will be fully secured if people change jobs. We will treat pensions as deferred income over which pensioners have full rights of security, control and portability.
☐ Abolish standing charges for water and create a fairer system of charging.

■ **Young people**
We propose a new deal for young people, in which new rights and new responsibilities go hand in hand. We will:
☐ Expand opportunities. Our aim is that every young person between the ages of 16 and 19 will have the opportunity to either work, learn, train or take a place on our new Citizens Service.
☐ Restore security to excluded young people. The withdrawal of benefit rights has condemned thousands of young people to life out of work and on the streets, at great long-term public cost. We will restore access to benefits for 16 and 17 year-olds. In the longer term, we aim to scrap the lower rate of income support for those under 25.
☐ Ensure that young people can learn their rights and responsibilities, with citizenship classes in every school and parenting classes for young adults. We will give children and young people access to information about their legal rights and obligations, review the age of majority and ensure that young people are represented on bodies that especially concern them.
☐ Expand local youth services. We will require local councils to provide a statutory youth service.

■ **Families**
Families, in all their forms, are a basic building block of society. But the nature of families is changing. This has brought new stresses which must be addressed. But it has also brought new attitudes, such as the sharing of family responsibilities, which should be encouraged. We will:
☐ Give families more security. We will take nearly 500,000 low earners out of tax altogether, by raising tax thresholds. We will replace Income Support and Family Credit with a simpler, more efficient Low Income Benefit that helps people back to work. We aim to improve the support for carers.
☐ Introduce fair and workable child support legislation. We will repeal the Child Support Act and abolish the Child Support Agency. We believe that parents should financially support their children at an appropriate level. Where there are disputes between the parents, these should be decided by the courts, not by an inflexible formula. We will create a new system of unified family courts to decide these questions.
☐ Promote good parenting. We will encourage the provision of parenting classes for young adults. We will increase the role of parents in education and develop home-school partnership arrangements, to assist in addressing the needs of the child.
☐ Expand parental rights. We will introduce a statutory right to parental leave and develop Maternity Benefit into a new, flexible parental benefit to be shared between partners. We will ensure that fostering and adoption law is based on the suitability of prospective fosterers and the needs of the child.
☐ Help parents to return to work. We will, over time, extend tax relief on workplace nurseries to other forms of day nursery care. We will develop a national childcare strategy.
☐ Encourage flexible working patterns. We will encourage job sharing and family-friendly employment practices, especially in the public sector. We will give private sector employees approaching retirement age, or with responsibilities for young children, the right to negotiate reduced hours or a career break.

■ **Women**
There is still a long way to go before women have equal opportunities. We will:
☐ Promote equality in the workplace. We will, over time, extend employment and pensions rights to part-time employees, on a pro-rata basis. We will bring in tougher obligations on employers to establish equal opportunities procedures and pursue the principle of equal pay for work of equal value.
☐ Make pensions fairer to women, by working to replace the contributory system with pension rights based on citizenship and residence in the UK. We will bring forward the introduction of pension splitting on divorce.
☐ Improve the services that women receive from the NHS. We will promote equal treatment of the sexes within the Health Service. We will set targets for the expansion of facilities which enable women to consult female health professionals.
☐ Make the legal system fairer to women. We will strengthen the civil law remedies for domestic violence and improve the treatment of rape victims by the court system. We will seek to improve the provision of refuge places for victims of domestic violence.
☐ Enhance the role of women in public life. We will tackle the under-representation of women on public bodies by setting a target that within a decade at least one-third of all those on all public bodies should be women. We will reform the procedures and facilities of the House of Commons to make them more accommodating to women and families.

■ **Disabled people**
Progress in equal opportunities for disabled people remains patchy and unacceptably slow. We will:
☐ Guarantee the rights of disabled people. We will ban discrimination on the grounds of disability and pass comprehensive legislation securing the civil rights of disabled people.
We will draw up a Charter of Rights setting out what our new Bill of Rights means for disabled people.
☐ Give disabled people more independence. We will introduce a Partial Capacity Benefit, building on the Disability Working Allowance, to assist those in work who cannot fully support themselves financially. We aim to increase financial support for disabled people who cannot find work and to make provision for the real costs of disability.
☐ Improve access. We will publish a code of practice to improve access to buildings and transport. We will require government departments, local Councils and public organisations to make their key public literature available in Braille or where appropriate tape.
☐ Make education inclusive. As part of our £2 billion investment in education, we will increase funding for, and enforce implementation of, the Code of Practice for Special Educational Needs.

■ **Ethnic minorities**
Despite progress over recent years, members of ethnic minorities are too often denied equal opportunities and have to face racism and discrimination on a daily basis. Diversity, pluralism and a multicultural society are sources of strength for Britain. We will:
☐ Strengthen action against discrimination. We will create a new Human Rights Commission, combining the Commission for Racial Equality and the Equal Opportunities Commission. We will give statutory force to the Commission for Racial Equality's Code of Practice in employment, and ensure that Britain plays a leading role in strengthening anti-discrimination legislation throughout the European Union.
☐ Ensure equal opportunities for all. We will require local authorities and housing associations to ensure equal opportunities in housing allocation. We will expand access to mother-tongue teaching, for both adults and children, where this takes place through self-help and community groups.
☐ Free immigration laws from racial discrimination. We will ensure that immigration policy is non-discriminatory in its application. We will reform current immigration laws so as to enable genuine family reunions. We will restore benefit rights to asylum seekers and ensure that asylum claims are dealt with swiftly.
☐ Increase ethnic minorities' confidence in the police. We will encourage the recruitment of ethnic minorities into the police force and require action to be taken against discrimination within the force. We will tackle any discriminatory use of police powers, such as stop and search, and enhance police action to deal with racial attacks. We will encourage the use of aggravated sentencing for racially motivated crimes.

■ **Lesbians and gay men**
In a free and tolerant society, discrimination on any grounds is unacceptable. Diversity is a source of strength. We will:
☐ Ensure equality before the law for lesbians and gay men through our new Human Rights Commission and the Bill of Rights. We will create a common age of consent regardless of gender or sexual orientation.
☐ Stop discrimination. We will outlaw incitement to hatred and discrimination in housing and employment, including the armed forces, on grounds of sexual orientation. We will repeal "section 28" of the 1988 Local Government Act. We will reform the law, ensure that the police and local authorities deal more effectively with homophobic attacks, and encourage police forces to be more representative

HEALTH



■ **Our priorities are to:**
☐ Halt all finance driven closures for 6 months, pending an independent audit of needs and facilities.
☐ Invest £200 million each year to recruit more staff for front-line patient care. This would be enough, for example, for 10,000 extra nurses or 5,000 extra doctors.
☐ Cut hospital waiting lists to a maximum of six months over three years.
☐ End the two-tier system in the NHS.
☐ Restore free eye and dental checks.

■ **Raising standards in the NHS**
Whilst many of the recent reforms to the NHS have been beneficial, they have resulted in the creation of a two-tier health service. The standard of health care a person receives is increasingly becoming a lottery. The length of time people have to wait, the chance of treatment being postponed and the quality of health care vary enormously from one part of the UK to another. We will:
☐ Match NHS facilities to needs. We will place an immediate six-month halt on the finance-driven closure of beds and wards, and set up an independent audit of needs and facilities.
☐ End the built-in two-tier service in the NHS. We will end the present system where treatment depends on the type of GP people go to. We will treat all GPs equally, with a common basis for funding. We want all GPs to have the benefits of flexibility and access to services currently enjoyed by fundholders. Those who choose to manage their own affairs will be able to do so on their own or as part of a consortium. Those who do not will be able to leave management to the local health authority.
☐ Raise standards of care in all areas. We will set up a National Inspectorate for Health and Social Care to improve standards and promote patients' interests. This body will work with the Audit Commission to ensure that all spending is monitored and results in real improvements in patient care.

■ **Funding the Health Service**
The NHS is underfunded. Too much goes into bureaucracy and not enough into patient care. There is a crisis in the NHS, especially in hospitals. Morale is dropping, standards of care are at risk from underfunding and highly qualified doctors and nurses are leaving the profession. We will:
☐ Invest more in the NHS. We will invest at least an extra £540 million every year in the NHS to pay for our policy priorities. This will be paid for by closing the loophole that allows employers to avoid paying National Insurance contributions on certain benefits in kind and by putting 5p on the price of a packet of 20 cigarettes. We will use these extra funds to tackle the crisis in staffing, especially in the hospital sector, and begin a shift to preventive care. We will ensure that the NHS budget keeps pace with increasing cost pressures.
☐ Shift money from unnecessary bureaucracy into patient care. We will move from annual to at least three-yearly contracts between Health Authorities and Trusts, and shift the money saved into front-line patient care. We will replace time consuming local pay bargaining with a new national pay structure and a single NHS-wide Pay Review Body that covers all pay, from the cleaner to the chief executive.

■ **Building on the best of the NHS**
The NHS needs to be strengthened and improved. We will:
☐ Cut waiting lists. We will cut waiting times between diagnosis and treatment to a maximum of six months over three years.
☐ Improve the quality of care and raise morale. We will recruit and train more professional staff. Our carefully costed plans would, for instance, pay for the equivalent of 10,000 more nurses or 5,000 more doctors. We will ban the use of "gagging clauses" in employment contracts which prevent professional staff from speaking out against unsafe standards.
☐ Tackle the crisis in NHS dental care. We will require local authorities to ensure that the public has access to NHS dentistry in all areas.

■ **Promoting good health**
Britain has a health service that concentrates too much on curing illness rather than preventing it. A healthier nation and a more cost-effective NHS depend on shifting the emphasis towards prevention, tackling the root causes of ill health (e.g. poverty and homelessness) and making people more responsible for their own health. We will:
☐ Make prevention a priority. We will immediately abolish charges for eye and dental check-ups and freeze prescription charges as the first steps in a radical shift of policy that emphasises the prevention of illness rather than treatment.
☐ Encourage people to take more responsibility for their own health. We will improve health education and promote healthy living. We will ban tobacco advertising and promotion and increase the duty on tobacco products. We will make the Health Education Authority truly independent and free to criticise government policy.
☐ Ensure that food is healthy and safe. We will create an independent and powerful Food Commission, separate from MAFF, and responsible to Parliament for food quality and safety.
☐ Put health promotion at the heart of government policy. We will require all government departments to assess the impact of their policies on health. Each year there will be an independent report, to be published and debated in Parliament, on the state of the nation's health.

■ **Bringing health services closer to people**
The local institutions of the NHS must become more accountable to those they serve and more responsive to patients' needs. We will:
☐ Enable citizens to play a part in setting health policies in their area. We will build on current pilot schemes to bring together Health Authorities and Social Services Departments, within the framework of elected local authorities. ☐ Give local people a stronger voice on NHS Trusts. We will end the right of the Secretary of State for Health to appoint members of NHS Trusts, Authorities and Boards. We will require at least half the membership of Trusts to be drawn from the population they serve. We will open up meetings of NHS Trust boards to the public and press, and give local people, staff and professionals speaking rights. We will guarantee direct representation from the staff of each Trust. We will give Community Health Councils improved rights to consultation and greater access to information and meetings.
☐ Give the public more say in setting priorities within the NHS. Difficult choices about priorities must be faced. They cannot be left to bureaucrats and health professionals alone. We will develop new ways of involving the public in setting health service priorities.

■ **Giving patients more choice**
Patients should have more choice over their type of treatment, who delivers it and when. We will:
☐ Enhance the rights of patients. We will strengthen the Patients' Charter and include rights to treatment within a specified time, a choice of GP, information about the options for treatment, guaranteed access to health records and better redress.
☐ Ensure that action is taken to improve poor quality services. We will enable patients and staff to apply directly to our new National Inspectorate of Health and Social Care to carry out inspections and take action where deficiencies come to light.

■ **Community care**
Our aim is to create a society in which people, whatever their needs, can live their lives with dignity. We will:
☐ Give people choice in the services they use and the way they are provided. We will require Councils to extend to those over 65 the right to arrange their own care privately, if they wish. This will promote independence and enable them to find better value for money.
☐ Care for carers. We will introduce a new Carer's Benefit, in place of the Independent Living Allowance, in order to meet more of the financial cost of caring. We will extend the Carer's Benefit, as resources allow, to those over retirement age and work to improve advice, information, training and counselling for carers. We will seek to increase access to respite care and ensure that carers and users are involved in decisions about care. We will draw up a Charter that sets out carers' rights and responsibilities.
☐ Establish high national standards for all community care services. Our new independent Inspectorate of Health and Social Care will publish codes of practice for residential and nursing homes, and have the power to close any home that consistently falls short of national standards. We will introduce national charging and eligibility guidelines to ensure a "level playing field" of provision and charges.
☐ Protect people from the excessive cost of care. We will, as resources allow, raise the threshold at which older people are required to make a contribution to their long-term care. We are committed to working on a cross-party basis, to establish a national agreement on a system for funding care services that does not penalise thrift.

IN THE WORLD



■ **Our priorities are to:**
☐ Make the European Union work more effectively and democratise its institutions.
☐ Widen Europe to include the new democracies of Central and Eastern Europe.
☐ Create a strong framework for Britain's defence and security through Nato and European co-operation.
☐ Give Britain a leading role in reforming and strengthening the UN and other international institutions.
☐ Promote an enforceable framework for international law, human rights and the protection of the environment.

■ **Positive leadership in Europe**
Britain's interests can only best be pursued through constructive participation in an enlarged European Union. Our vision is of a European Union that is decentralised, democratic and diverse. A strong and united Europe, but one that respects cultural traditions and national and regional identities.

In seeking to reform the EU, our priorities are to:
☐ Give the British people a say. Reform that fundamentally changes Britain's place in Europe should only proceed if it has the explicit support of Britain's people. If there is any substantial change in Britain's relationship with the EU, the British people must give their consent through a referendum.
☐ Make EU institutions more democratic and accountable. We will give the House of Commons a more effective role in scrutinising European policy. We also want the Council of Ministers and the EC Commission to be more accountable to the elected European Parliament. We will introduce a fair and proportional voting system for British MEPs in time for the 1999 European Parliament elections.
☐ Make EU decision-making more efficient and effective. Europe cannot effectively enlarge without improving its decision-making. We therefore favour the wider application of majority voting. But we will keep the veto on all issues relating to the constitution, budgetary matters and regulations on pay and social security. We support the use of the "double majority", especially on matters such as foreign and security policy. Each member state must retain the unfettered right to make its own decisions on the commitment of its national troops.

■ **Pursuing Britain's interests in Europe**
Britain has much to gain from EU membership. This will take new leadership, a new approach and a renewed sense of national confidence. Our aims in Europe are to:
☐ Enhance economic prosperity, by promoting the freedom of movement of people, goods, services and money throughout the EU and by completing the European Single Market, particularly in areas of financial services, pensions and air travel.
☐ Participate in a successful single currency. Being part of a successful single currency will bring low inflation and low interest rates ... out will result in less investment and a loss of influence. However, three conditions must be met before Britain can join. First, the single currency must be firmly founded on the Maastricht criteria. Second, Britain must meet those criteria. Third, the British people must have agreed to it in a referendum.
☐ Strengthen the European framework for peace and security. Britain's security and national interests are best pursued in partnership with its European neighbours. We will work to strengthen European Common Foreign and Security policy to enable greater scope for united European action. Individual member states must be free to decide whether or not their national forces will take part in any particular action.
☐ Fight crime and protect citizens' rights through more effective co-operation between EU states' police and customs forces with greater democratic accountability. We will work to improve European co-operation against cross-border criminal activity and allow free movement for Britain's people throughout Europe. The administration of border controls should remain with individual member nations until they can be confident that the EU's external borders are secure.
☐ Reform the Common Agricultural Policy, converting it into a system of direct payments to support economic, social and environmental goals in rural communities.
☐ Reform fisheries policies, scrapping the Common Fisheries Policy and replacing it with a new Europe-wide fisheries policy based on the regional management of fish stocks. We will take urgent action to end quota-hopping and begin the phased abolition of industrial fishing.

■ **Strong defence in an uncertain world**
The first decades of the next century are likely to be turbulent and unstable everywhere, including within and around Europe. Britain must maintain an effective security capability. This will best be achieved through Nato and European co-operation, and this country must continue to play a full part in both. We will:
☐ Maintain a strong defence at home and enable the UK to play a leading role in keeping international peace. We will maintain Britain's overall defence capability at its current level, whilst ensuring UK forces meet current needs and are appropriate to potential threats.
☐ Retain Britain's basic nuclear capability through the Trident submarine force until such time as international multilateral nuclear disarmament can be achieved. We will restrict the number of nuclear warheads on Trident to the same number as previously deployed Polaris.
☐ Resist the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. We will press for the conclusion a verifiable Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. We will ensure that Britain plays an active part in talks to reduce the holdings of strategic nuclear weapons.
☐ Support the principle of common security. We support the extension of the security guarantees, from which Western Europe has benefited, to the new democracies of Central and Eastern Europe. We support Nato and its enlargement.

■ **Working for peace, security and sustainability**
In an increasingly inter-dependent world, the security of a medium-sized nation like Britain is best preserved within a framework of international law that is effective and enforceable.

■ **Reforming the United Nations**
Playing a leading role in strengthening and reforming the UN should be a central aspect of Britain's foreign policy over the next decade. We will work to:
☐ Strengthen the UN's peacekeeping capability so that it can take earlier and more effective action to prevent or suppress conflict. This should include establishing fast-track machinery for negotiations; permanent, on-call, peacekeeping forces made up from high-calibre troops provided by member states; the reinstatement of a Military Staff Committee; the establishment of a UN Staff College to train officers; and improvements to the UN's command control, communication and intelligence capabilities.
☐ Support the establishment of an International Criminal Court to deal with genocide and war crimes.

■ **Protecting the global environment**
Pollution and environmental degradation do not respect national borders. Countries must work together if the world's environment is to be protected. We will:
☐ Take a lead in international environmental negotiations. We will press for tough and legally binding international targets for greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants.
☐ Develop a global system of environmental protection. We will work for the creation of a global environmental organisation. We will promote an environmental equivalent of the Geneva Convention, to outlaw gross acts of environmental destruction in times of war.

■ **Tackling world poverty**
The elimination of global famine, pestilence and poverty is not only a moral challenge, it is also essential for the world's long-term stability and peace. We will:
☐ Increase Britain's contribution to overseas aid. We will set out a timetable for sustained progress towards achieving the UN target for overseas development aid of 0.7 per cent of GNP within the next ten years.
☐ Promote a timetable for debt relief to the poorest states including a programme for cancelling debt and the creation of new and additional resources for debt relief.
☐ Target Britain's bilateral aid where it is most needed. We will focus Britain's bilateral aid on the least developed countries and end the practice of tying aid.
☐ Require states that receive UK development assistance to respect the fundamental human rights of their people and suspend UK programmes where these standards are breached.

■ **Controlling arms sales**
The global arms trade fuels conflicts, hinders prosperity and robs the world's poor of resources. Its growth must be diminished. We will:
☐ End the sale of British arms, war material, and "dual use" technologies to regimes which abuse human rights, and strictly control arms sales to regions of tension or potential conflict.
☐ Seek a new international regime to control the arms trade. We will support tighter EU-wide restrictions on transfers of military technology to non-democratic regimes and press for the establishment of a mandatory UN register, in which all arms sales and transfers must be listed.
☐ Ban landmines. We will place an immediate and total ban on the production, stockpiling and export of anti-personnel landmines and work towards a global ban on landmine production.

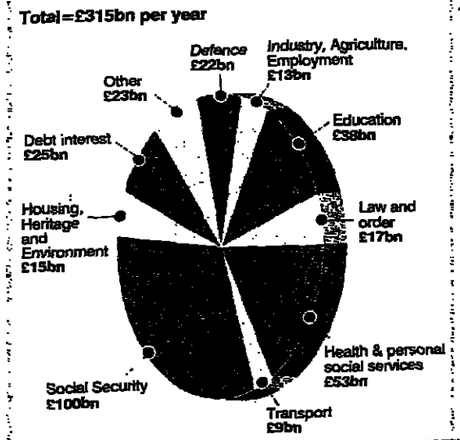
■ **Free and fair trade**
Free and fair trade benefits all. The Gatt Uruguay Round has successfully lowered barriers to international trade, but further reforms are needed. We will seek action to:
☐ Enhance free trade by further reducing tariff and non-tariff barriers, especially against the poorest countries.
☐ Improve global labour standards by permitting countries to discriminate against goods produced by nations that maintain practices such as child, slave and forced labour. We will support the work of the International Labour Organisation in raising labour standards throughout the world.
☐ Advance environmental objectives. We support the addition of an environmental sustainability clause to the Gatt, setting out agreed principles of environmental policy against which trade measures can be judged.
☐ Reduce transnational corporations' ability to abuse market power, through the development of a framework for global competition policy.

How we would alter tax and government spending

CURRENT SPENDING

How the Government is spending your money
(Current government spending plans 1997-98)

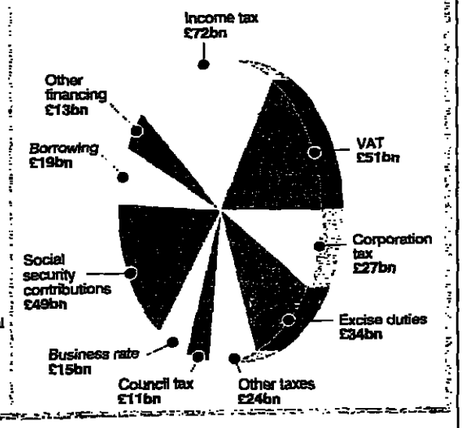
Total=£315bn per year



CURRENT TAXATION

Where the Government's money comes from
(Expected government revenue 1997-98)

Total=£315bn per year



■ **How these proposals would change government spending over a full year.**

Liberal Democrats would increase government spending on:
Education ..... by £2,050 million.
Health ..... by £565 million.
Pensions ..... by £265 million.

Liberal Democrats would decrease government spending on:
Private consultants ..... by £120 million.
Publicity ..... by £50 million.
Empty properties ..... by £25 million.

■ **How these proposals would change your income tax (97/98).**

New personal tax allowance £4,245
New basic rate £24p
New rate for income over £100,000 .... 50%

A copy of our Annual Tax Contract will be delivered to each UK household following the Budget each year. This Annual Tax Contract will be in keeping with our four Tax Pledges:
1. No taxation without explanation: central Government should inform taxpayers of the ways in which their money is raised and spent, just as local councils now do.
2. No promises unless the bill is attached: people have the right to know the Government's priorities and how much they will cost. When we make significant changes in our tax and spending priorities we will tell people where the money has come from. We will ask the National Audit Office to make sure that additional expenditure earmarked for specific projects is spent accordingly.
3. No more tax without tackling waste: each year we will set out the measures which we plan to implement in order to reduce wasteful expenditure and deliver best value for money to taxpayers. We will never raise taxes without first scrutinising Government expenditure for waste.
4. Fair tax for all: tax bands, rates and reliefs should ensure that everyone contributes according to their ability to pay and that the tax burden is fairly shared. We will aim to take more of those on low incomes out of tax completely. We will clamp down on tax avoidance and evasion. We will provide a mechanism for people to give their views on tax and spending priorities.

TAX

■ **Costing our commitment:**
☐ We have issued alongside this manifesto a Costings Supplement to show in detail how our proposals will be financed.
☐ We will raise the basic rate of income tax by one penny in the pound — from 23p to 24p — to help finance our £2bn per year programme of Education investment.
☐ We will increase the amount of income which people can receive before they start to pay income tax by £200 per year to £4,245. This tax cut will be paid for by introducing a new rate of income tax of 50%, payable on taxable income of over £100,000 per year. Half a million people will be freed from income tax altogether.
☐ We will put 5p on a packet of cigarettes and use the money to restore free eye and dental checks for all and freeze prescription charges.

■ **Main income tax changes:**
☐ Around 70% of Adults will pay lower or unchanged income tax under our proposals.
☐ Around half of all income taxpayers would be better off or no worse off under our income tax proposals.
☐ Excluding those earning over £100,000 per year, the average income taxpayer will pay only around 45p extra per week in income tax under our plans.

Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
4 875.50	Allied Domecq	650	– 9	6.6	10.6
311.90	Bulmer (H.P.)	980	– 16	2.8	17.6
35.90	Burn Stewart	607½	– 1	7.2	14.8
136.00	Glenmorangie A	1000	– 10	1.5	27.2
10,016.00	Grand Met	476½	– 14½	4.2	15.4
9 421.10	Greenalls	398	– 4	4.0	14.2
463.20	Highland Dist	347½	– 1	3.0	16.7
387.00	Matthew Clark†	325	+ 5	9.2	15.5
9.86	Morgan W	90½	..	6.4	19.2
5,569.30	SA Breweries	1895½	– 40½	1.8	..

BANKS

11,984.60	ABN-AMRO	3950	–248½	3.0	16.1
10,039.90	Abbey Nat	742	– 3	4.4	13.1
2 705.70	Allied Irish	411	– 3½	4.4	..
5,699.20	Aus New Z	579½	– 8	5.0	..
25,172.80	Bank America	6171½	–531½	..	..
1,030.40	Bank Scotland	320	– ½	2.9	11.7
15,599.80	Barclays†	1009	+ 8	3.8	10.4
2,840.30	Bk of Ireland	591	– 14½	3.5	13.4
32,935.90	Citicorp	8806½	–165½	..	..
6 975.10	Commercial	1535½	–100½	2.7	..
29,131.50	Dai Ichi Kan Y	6345½	–53½	0.7	..
16,217.40	Deutsche Bk	32434½	–171½	2.0	..
180.10	Espirito Santo	884½	– 6½	3.6	12.6
19,814.60	Fuji Bank Y	648	– 69½	0.6	..
12,503.40	HSBC†	1447	– 47	3.5	12.5
24,930.70	HSBC HK†	1392	– 45	3.7	12.1
487.50	Irish Permt	567	– 18	2.6	..
25,366.30	Lloyds TSB†	492	– 7½	3.4	15.9
10,915.50	Nat Aust Bk	7239½	– 35½	3.5	10.1
17,797.30	Nat Westy†	699½	– 3	5.3	10.3
4,292.70	Ryl Bk Scot	523½	– 13½	4.4	11.8
8 144.40	Stand Chart†	826	– 17½	2.5	14.6
16,061.10	Wells Fargo	21564½	..	1.9	..
6,141.60	Westpac	323½	– 31½	4.1	10.6

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

7,181.00	Bass	619½	– 4	3.9	16.0
14.30	Bk for the Bdr	54½	– 2	4.0	14.9
37.40	Burned Bear	180	– 4	3.9	16.2
291.10	Cin Centre Rest	150	– ½	1.9	20.3
2,124.60	Compass Grp†	662½	+ 9	1.5	17.2
59.30	Eldridge P. A	213½	+ 1	2.4	15.1
66.10	Fin Soc 'A'	482½	..	2.4	15.1
1 566.60	Greenalls Grp	530½	– 13	3.5	16.7
423.20	Greene King	695½	– 14½	2.9	17.2
27.50	Grosvenor Rest	183½	– 5½	3.9	19.7
45.50	Gunpo Clear Ger	345½	– 9	1.5	25.8
56.10	Hardy Heron	380½	..	4.7	12.7
79.90	Hill J	2725	..	2.6	14.7
54.50	Inn Business†	72	+ ½	2.7	..
259.50	Mansfield	352½	– 6	3.6	16.2
251.60	Marston Thmp	278	– 9½	3.4	19.4
193.80	Morland	800	– 7½	2.8	15.8
3.99	Paramount	30½	– 2	..	..
437.50	PizzaExpress†	6665½	– 63	0.5	43.5
38.60	Ransdens (H)	415	– 7½	1.5	39.2
280.50	Regent Inns†	315½	– 8	1.9	30.2
4,100.00	Scott & Nsn	664½	– 12	3.9	20.1
353.70	Vaux Group	1045½	– 25	2.6	15.1
258.80	Wetherspoons JD†	1185	– 2½	1.0	26.4
3 728.30	Whitbread	764	– 28	3.7	15.5
445.90	Wolverhamp D	861½	– 7½	3.2	14.6
204.70	Yates Bros	497	..	2.2	21.1
18.10	Young 'A'	622½	– 2½	3.1	24.8

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

4.97	AAF Inds	214½	– 2	..	..
77.50	Abbey	390	– 5	3.5	20.5
118.60	Allen	299½	..	2.9	18.3
293.00	Amec	1143½	+ 4	3.5	..
139.90	Amey	484	– 2	2.8	30.6
77.00	Andrews Sykes	527½	– 4	1.4	13.1
374.00	Ashtead†	271	– 4	1.4	24.5
20.90	Avonside	48	– ½	2.7	12.2
4.04	Bailey (Geo) Con	38½	– 1	4.3	..
49.30	Bandt	35	..	3.9	21.9
27.10	Barcrofts	34½	– 1	5.2	15.5
688.70	Barratt Devs	2625½	– 5	4.3	14.4
476.30	Beazer†	169½	– 9	4.5	13.1
345.60	Bellway	331	– 2½	3.7	16.6
8.78	Bellwinch	19½	..	..	12.8
715.10	Berkeley Gp	7115½	– 11	1.5	16.2
22.80	Best Bros	152	– ½	4.6	4.6
71.50	Bost (Henry)	265	..	3.6	11.1
39.90	Brandon Hire	91½	– 2½	3.8	..
5.64	Britannia Grp	39	..	6.7	..
7.20	BW Bldg & Eng	38½	+ 1	..	..
387.90	Bryant†	138	+ ½	4.6	19.3
48.10	CALA	111½	– 1	3.9	14.6
5.75	Campbell & Ass	5½	– ½	..	..
9.41	Clarke T	76½	– 2	8.3	12.9
95.20	Costain	65	..	..	..
62.60	Countrywide†	82	– 1	3.4	24.2
85.80	Crest Nicholson†	660	– 1½	3.6	18.2
15.10	Cussons	85	– 1½	6.2	..
17.20	Eve Group†	175	– 2½	2.7	..
16.40	Galliford†	107½	– 1	6.1	..
94.60	Gleeson (MJ)	927½	..	2.2	16.7
4.04	Green (Ernest)	52½	– 1½	7.1	16.6
80.50	Hawtock Euro	267½	– 4	1.7	21.7
409.30	Hawtn-Stuart	147½	+ 15	2.8	19.2
4.62	Haywood Hdgs	177½	..	5.7	18.7
186.40	Jarvis	216½	– 7½	0.9	..
119.60	Kellett	213½	..	2.7	..
68.40	Kier	216	– 3½	3.8	12.9
154.30	Lang Hthl	335½	+ 1	3.5	..
30.00	Lang 6.4% Cv Pf	134½	– 1	6.4	..
4.28	Lovell (TJ)	198½	– ½	..	..
45.10	Marsden (Jh)	156½	– 7	3.7	14.4
117.30	McAlpine (A)	169½	– 1½	5.6	15.6
113.10	McCarthy & S	114	+ 1½	2.5	16.8
15.10	Mcinerney	68	..	..	..
67.40	Morgan Sndall†	202½	– 4	2.5	15.4
183.50	Morrison Cons	273½	– 6½	2.1	21.2
306.20	Mowlem (J)	177	– 2	3.2	13.3
404.90	Persimmon†	231	– 4½	5.1	15.2
22.60	Poplecst	108½	– 1½	2.9	11.3
186.30	Ropaway	138½	– 3	3.4	46.0
21.00	Shaw Sid	165	– 1½	..	9.8
342.60	Redland	153½	– 3½	2.8	15.7
32.80	Sheriff Hdgs	283	..	3.1	16.6
3.60	Sisnco	54½	– 1½	9.6	7.3
48.20	Spandex	332	– 5	1.2	..
60.80	Swan Hill	88½	– 3½	3.6	..
30.30	Tay Homes†	134½	+ 4	3.6	29.2
735.20	Taylor Woodrw	167½	– 1½	2.5	16.2
212.10	Tilbury Douglas†	627½	..	4.8	..
14.20	Try Group	201½	– 1½	..	12.2
29.30	Wimpeol	63½	– 2	8.0	..
80.40	Wimpsons	129½	–	4.4	..
28.70	Ward Hdgs	59½	..	..	..
238.70	Westbury	253½	– 1	3.1	22.2
54.30	Wiggins	10	..	..	41.1
321.40	Wilson (Cn)	182	+ 2	3.7	17.9
482.80	Wilson Bowdn	526½	– 9½	3.7	17.5
510.70	Wimpey Gt	140	– 5	4.9	44.2

BUILDING MATERIALS

1,597.30	BPB	330	– 4½	3.8	15.9
42.00	Baggeridge Brk	102½	..	3.8	25.2
339.90	Barden	414½	+ 1½	6.2	17.5
9.84	Bicc Hdgs	39½	..	..	..
3,015.50	Blue Circle†	407½	+ ½	4.1	17.3
24.00	Brogden PLC	84½	+ 1	7.4	..
23.60	Bt Dredging	155	– ½	5.2	15.5
2,182.10	CRH	607	+ 7	1.8	..
2.85	Caledonial Hby	47½	..	8.2	4.9
60.40	Capral	166½	– 1	4.5	..
1,519.00	Caradon	324½	– 2	4.6	12.1
224.10	Caradon pf	124½	– ½	6.8	..
5.20	Chelfalls Grf	69½	+ ½	6.2	8.4
3.90	Dyson (J&J)	237½	– 6½	2.6	14.0
17.20	Dyson 'A'	125½	– 2½	5.0	7.4
5.33	Ebsworth	25	..	..	..
57.80	Eyton	265	..	4.3	16.9
25.90	Flare	130½	– 4	..	13.3
1.57	Gibbs & Dandy†	92½	+ ½	5.1	..
188.60	Graham Gp	135	+ 3	5.4	..
102.40	Hansard (J)	144	– 6½	3.5	14.2
1,783.70	Hanson	274	– 12½	5.3	12.5
648.00	Heperath	363½	+ 10½	7.3	14.4
12.00	Howlsport	73½	..	4.4	14.7
298.60	Hsmed Mnrt	398½	..	6.7	10.7
315.90	Ibstock†	88	+ ½	3.4	..
55.10	Johnston	515	– 8½	3.0	..
22.00	Lilleshall†	77½	– 2½	7.8	13.2
415.50	Marley†	123	..	5.1	13.8
149.30	Marshalls†	120	– 6	5.4	12.9
528.00	Meyer Int	414	– 3½	3.3	16.9
222.10	Newman Tstct	173½	..	5.3	..
140.70	Norcros	90½	+ 1½	1.8	..
15.00	Phoenix Timber	22½	..	1.7	51.0
1,253.00	Pilkington	171	– 1	5.2	19.5
392.80	Polypipe†	243½	+ 1½	1.6	19.9
2,508.40	RMC Gp	968½	– 5	3.3	15.5
1,861.10	Redland	357½	– 2½	6.0	17.1
14.60	Rentul	61½	+ 6½	2.4	..
92.50	Rebrand	109	– 1	1.3	..
722.70	Rugby Group	112½	+ 3	4.1	18.7
24.80	Ruskin (A)	102½	..	3.3	..
381.90	SIG	335	+ 15½	2.7	16.0
4.84	Shaw	7½	– ½	..	..
56.40	Sharpe & Fisher†	233½	..	3.1	..
61.20	Spring Ram	13½	– ½	..	..
113.20	Staveslone Hdgs	162½	+ 1	6.1	..
966.80	Tarmac	194	+ 6	6.6	..
14.70	Titon	61½	– 2½	4.9	12.3
497.30	Tarmac Perlec	480	– 7½	2.9	19.3
5.55	Tudor	50	– 1½	5.2	..
2,729.20	Wolseley	490½	– 11	2.8	15.8

CHEMICALS

490.80	Albright & Wil†	156½	+ 5½	5.5	11.6
847.10	Allied Colloids	123	– 2	3.0	22.0
20.00	Amber Ind	127½	..	5.1	12.9
58.10	Amberley Gp	95½	– 5	3.8	10.8
20.70	Anglo Lbt	2½	+ ½	..	9.0
13,743.60	BASF Dtl	2225	– 89½	2.9	..
4,576.00	BOC	943½	– 12½	3.6	16.3
448.90	BTP	358	– 2	5.3	14.1
17,456.20	Bayer DM50	2408½	–143½	2.3	..
63.50	Brent Chemst	94	– 1½	4.3	10.9
137.30	Brunner Mond†	172½	– 3	5.1	9.7
85.00	Cambay (W)	200½	– 1	3.6	..
81.50	Cty Technology	185½	– 6	1.0	19.7
1,419.00	Courtaulds	349	– 12	3.7	18.1
410.20	Croda	304½	– 9½	4.2	12.5
90.30	Dselles	269	– 1	3.1	14.5
265.60	Elks & Everard†	399	– 4½	4.0	14.0
25.50	Euro Colour	55	+ ½	5.0	11.0
9.95	Elkhem	82½	– 4	10.6	6.8
115.20	Hickson	96	– 2	..	16.1
13,625.10	Hoechst	2316½	–169½	2.0	..
145.90	Holliday Chem	139	– 4	4.7	13.3
5,086.50	ICI	1030½	+ 4	5.7	20.6
321.60	Inspec†	184½	– 2½	4.3	10.1
440.20	Kalsel	134	– 2	5.2	30.3
1,338.60	Laporte	680	– 14	4.5	14.4
67.80	Mandovi	170	– 1½	8.5	16.6
24.50	Mortstorn	67	– 5	4.0	..
7.23	Melrotol	30	..	2.5	19.2
75.50	Penalrt	296	+ 1	2.4	27.8
522.00	Scapa	217½	– 2	3.4	11.8
35.40	Scapa Synth	29½	..	5.1	7.7
11,682.70	Tatedo Chem	1335½	+ 50½	0.5	23.1
53.40	Wardstone R	867½	– 6	4.9	..
108.30	Yorks Grp†	238½	+ 2½	4.8	..
362.60	Yule Catto	356½	– 13½	2.9	15.7

DISTRIBUTORS

56.50	Action Gp Sds	175½	– 3	..	21.4
13.50	Adas & Harvey	315	– 5	5.2	5.3
3.83	Alexanderst	9½	..	1.3	..
38.60	Appleyard	56	– 1½	13.4	6.7
7.88	Arbuthnot Bk Eng	3	..	4.0	..
1,135.30	Bunzl	512½	– 7½	3.5	15.0
5.65	Bentley Power	15½	– ½	..	..
2.29	Bogod 'A'	89½	..	2.5	11.1
292.00	Brammer	633½	+ 6½	3.3	..
6.05	Bridgend Gp	52	..	1.1	..
26.80	Bst Fittings	112½	– 2½	4.8	..
9.58	Cattyns	302½	– 2½	4.6	12.5
63.80	Cir Group	172½	..	2.8	16.8
39.50	Concentric	133½	+ 3½	3.2	8.6
31.80	Charles Sidney	76	– 1½	7.2	..
22.90	Cash (DC)	65	– 1½	5.3	6.3
24.70	Dag Motors	107½	+ 3	9.4	..
21.90	Dennans B	124	– 2½	2.8	13.9
194.50	Diploma	348	– 3	5.2	12.9
1,689.50	Electrocomponents	396½	– 4	2.2	24.0
95.60	Gandis Elect	185	– 6½	3.8	29.5
47.50	Simpson Mc	86½	– 1	7.5	9.0
73.50	Evans (Halsbury)	245	– 5	9.8	..
6.90	Filo Indstrs	84½	– 5	9.3	6.7
232.40	Flextel Grp†	350	– 2½	2.1	17.8
31.90	Gardner	29½	– ½	4.0	11.3
19.20	Glenchrome A	83½	– 2½	2.7	12.3
8.54	Gowrings†	95	– 1	5.3	10.5
28.50	Hamlet	95½	– 4	8.2	8.6
122.00	Harris (Philip)	247½	– 2½	4.4	15.1
191.50	Hardcase	312	– 6½	2.4	..
6.01	Haldane Tech	154	..	6.5	..
94.10	ISA Ind	230	– 5	1.6	..
1,388.40	Incheape	2652½	+ ½	5.1	14.9
5.67	Jacks (Wm)	52½	..	4.8	18.1
410.40	Iweb-Fil	270½	+ 2½	2.1	16.5
377.80	Lex Service†	332	– 4½	6.2	10.9
34.40	Lookers†	103	– 1	9.7	6.9
20.40	Maines Grpt	122½	..	6.5	..
60.00	Marlborne	74½	– 1	3.3	6.8
18.60	Mdsbates	39½	+ ½	3.8	11.8
26.80	Norbain	256	– 11	3.9	7.1
49.10	Northcember	144	– 3	1.2	8.5
223.80	Peters'W	305½	– 20½	3.2	..
143.00	Pendragon†	365½	– 3½	3.3	17.1
52.50	Perry Gp	205	– 3½	5.6	9.6
249.50	Premier Farnell	460	– 5	3.1	17.9
32.10	Quicks Group	136½	– 2	8.5	..
29.70	REA	315	..	1.6	37.5
3.98	Reece	2½	..	..	..
18.40	Rotaco	39½	..	9.1	7.1
4.43	Ross Gp	3	..	..	..
25.70	Rotork†	197½	– 1	5.6	16.2
23.60	SSP Indl†	240½	– 3½	4.2	..
15.20	Sallres	65½	– 1½	2.1	18.0
209.20	Simo Products	306	– 3	3.6	15.9
27.60	UMECO	240	– 1	2.5	17.2
188.20	Vardy (Regt)	322½	+ 2½	0.4	..
99.80	WF Electr†	615	– 27	2.7	22.3
33.80	Wickstar	35½	– 1	3.0	10.4
194.30	Wyko†	150	– 5	3.2	17.6
30.10	Young (H)	139½	– 1	3.9	11.7

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

599.50	Amalgamts	356	– 9	1.8	..
231.60	Ascot Hdgs	267	– 5	2.3	..
47.50	Bowgrave Mk	69½	– 1	7.5	9.0
73.50	Bunzl (ustdsec)	245	– 5	9.8	..
6.90	Filo Indstrs	84½	– 5	9.3	6.7
232.40	Flextel Grp†	350	– 2½	2.1	17.8
31.90	Gardner	29½	– ½	4.0	11.3
19.20	Glenchrome A	83½	– 2½	2.7	12.3
8.54	Gowrings†	95	– 1	5.3	10.5
28.50	Hamlet	95½	– 4	8.2	8.6
122.00	Harris (Philip)	247½	– 2½	4.4	15.1
191.50	Hardcase	312	– 6½	2.4	..
6.01	Haldane Tech	154	..	6.5	..
94.10	ISA Ind	230	– 5	1.6	..
1,388.40	Incheape	2652½	+ ½	5.1	14.9
5.67	Jacks (Wm)	52½	..	4.8	18.1
410.40	Iweb-Fil	270½	+ 2½	2.1	16.5
377.80	Lex Service†	332	– 4½	6.2	10.9
34.40	Lookers†	103	– 1	9.7	6.9
20.40	Maines Grpt	122½	..	6.5	..
60.00	Marlborne	74½	– 1	3.3	6.8
18.60	Mdsbates	39½	+ ½	3.8	11.8
26.80	Norbain	256	– 11	3.9	7.1
49.10	Northcember	144	– 3	1.2	8.5
223.80	Peters'W	305½	– 20½	3.2	..
143.00	Pendragon†	365½	– 3½	3.3	17.1
52.50	Perry Gp	205	– 3½	5.6	9.6
249.50	Premier Farnell	460	– 5	3.1	17.9
32.10	Quicks Group	136½	– 2	8.5	..
29.70	REA	315	..	1.6	37.5
3.98	Reece	2½	..	..	..
18.40	Rotaco	39½	..	9.1	7.1
4.43	Ross Gp	3	..	..	..
25.70	Rotork†	197½	– 1	5.6	16.2
23.60	SSP Indl†	240½	– 3½	4.2	..
15.20	Sallres	65½	– 1½	2.1	18.0
209.20	Simo Products	306	– 3	3.6	15.9
27.60	UMECO	240	– 1	2.5	17.2
188.20	Vardy (Regt)	322½	+ 2½	0.4	..
99.80	WF Electr†	615	– 27	2.7	22.3
33.80	Wickstar	35½	– 1	3.0	10.4
194.30	Wyko†	150	– 5	3.2	17.6
30.10	Young (H)	139½	– 1	3.9	11.7

ELECTRICITY

1,624.00	Br Energy PIP	134	+ 6½	7.4	..
1,329.30	East Midlands	670	..	5.9	9.9
2,628.40	Energy Group	504½	– 4½	5.2	9.7
1,232.50	London Elect	705½	..	5.3	10.8
1,635.60	Midland Indl	712	+ 7½	6.8	8.5
5,126.70	Nalional Power	505½	+ 19	5.8	9.5
660.80	Northern Elec	651	..	8.4	5.9
504.40	Nthn Ireland†	359½	– 7	6.8	5.6
3,923.90	PowerGen	616	+ 2½	4.5	7.2
4,038.20	Scottish-Elect	370	+ 9	5.5	8.2
4,257.10	Scottish Power	362	+ 8½	5.7	10.8
1,853.70	Southern Elec	996	+ 7½	7.4	8.6
1,470.10	Yorkshire Elec	924	+ 2	5.8	12.2

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

97.00	Acal	482½	– 5	2.3	15.8
133.70	Accon Comp	215	– 5½	..	..
244.10	Advanst†	387½	– 2½	0.7	..
294.10	Aeotech†	215	+ 15	1.6	..
115.00	Aeon Gp	405½	..	..	..
34.50	Arlec	464	..	2.4	11.3
479.90	Astec	155½	– 2½	1.5	18.1
179.30	Atlas	505	– 2½	1.0	16.1
1,134.70	Bicc†	278½	+ 1	2.7	..
15.90	Beales Hunter†	149	– 3½	9.0	7.1
107.90	Blick	348	– 5½	5.0	9.4
735.40	Brentlscpet	377½	– 2	3.4	15.1
2.70	Bridon (AF) 'A'	18½	– 1½	5.5	4.2
21.70	C&L Micro	136½	– 1	5.5	11.1
32.40	Chemel Hdgs	175½	– 2	9.3	11.3
83.10	Chloride	324½	– ½	4.3	17.6
13.80	Clayhithe	67½	..	6.4	7.9
100.20	Crichley	602½	– 7½	2.3	17.5
1,065.50	Dasta Bs Syst	470	– 37½	0.6	29.3
322.40	Dellet	348½	– 8	5.7	19.3
39.00	Diamond	331	– 4	4.2	15.4
1,703.00	Domino Print	1230	– 20	1.4	24.9
69.40	Dwek	223	– 2	0.9	24.8
2,655.20	Electrolux 'B'	3726½	–137½	2.7	..
26.20	Exacs	24½	– ½	2.1	18.4
17,502.50	Ericsson 'B'	2000	–162½	1.0	..
33.40	Eurocrypt	87½	– 1½	4.0	10.4
434.40	Filtronic Comm	480	+ 16½	2.3	17.4
571.80	Farey Group	573½	– 21½	2.0	17.7
144.60	Filtronic Com	327½	– 13½	0.2	..
123.00	Forward Gp	224	..	1.2	15.8
19.50	Forward Tech	39½	– 1½	5.2	..
10,622.00	GEC†	382½	+ 9	4.1	19.5
99.50	Gooday	154	– 5	5.5	..
72.20	Ind Control†	132	– 1½	3.4	14.3
7.12	Inlotek	17	..	6.6	15.1
10.80	Ridet	113½	..	2.6	9.8
4.41	IPA Ind	49	– 1	4.9	16.4
155.00	Mesmer-Sef	301½	+ ½	2.5	17.4
19.10	Microvitec	24½	– 1½	4.8	..
449.80	Mitel	425	..	..	..
184.60	Oxford Inst	361½	+ 2½	2.1	13.9
173.70	Parkmor†	81	– 10½	3.7	8.0
9.63	Pace Micro	127½	..	3.2	..
91.40	Psak	75½	– 3	5.8	10.6
9,155.50	Phillips Lmp nv	2700½	–168½	1.9	..
7.51	Plurimus	156½	– 3½	4.8	..
34.50	Racom	105½	+ 6	0.3	22.8
114.00	Pressac	228	+ ½	2.2	18.1
17.10	Prosteck	42	..	2.4	9.7
305.40	Psion†	411	– 12½	0.7	..
800.10	Racal Elect	282	– 7½	2.7	21.0
20.00	Redman	110½	– 10	3.5	..
257.00	Renishaw†	359½	– 3½	2.7	16.3
6.36	Rodime	2½	..	..	..
116.60	Rostronl	211	– ½	3.9	12.5
72.30	Sel Dev Sys	203½	– 5	1.4	28.1
40.60	Servowatch	364	– 2	2.7	8.1
63.40	Sharpness	76½	– 1	2.0	18.1
5,751.80	TDK	4371½	+171½	0.8	..
15.60	TGI	71½	+ 3	5.9	7.6
217.00	TLG	116	– 1	4.6	12.8
6.18	Tadpole Technl	23½	– 2½	..	..
50.60	Telemetrix	55	– 2½	3.4	35.7
72.50	Telspec†	230	– 20	2.9	..
17.40	Thorpe PW	134½	– 13	4.6	11.2
3.13	Total Systems†	31	..	6.5	9.2
69.10	Tunstall	210	– 5	1.0	12.0
147.60	Vinty	52½	+ 2½	0.4	..
69.20	Vero	149½	– 4	5.0	..
119.00	Volex	426	..	6.6	12.6
2.62	Wadkourne	11½	– ½	..	..
52.40	Wessex	173	– 1	1.8	50.0

ENGINEERING

74.50	ASW	514	– 1	1.7	18.2
181.70	APV†	61	– 3½	5.5	..
23.80	ASW	28½	+ ½	..	..
117.50	Alumasc†	291½	– 6½	3.4	12.6
79.90	Alvis	140	– 2	2.7	15.6
68.60	Ash & Lacy	185	– 5½	5.0	..
65.00	Atlas Equip	625	– 7½	4.5	..
10.60	Aycliffe Metal	105½	+ 3	5.9	..
1,461.30	BBA†	356½	– 5	2.5	19.1
52.10	BHR	189	– 2	7.9	8.7
108.00	Babcock	184	– 2	3.7	..
4.87	Bailey (CH)	6½	..	..	6.1
171.70	Baynes (Charles)†	110½	– 3½	3.5	13.2
18.10	Beaufort	39	– 2	2.6	..
13.60	Bellis Group	47½	– 2½	1.3	..
192.30	Benlard Ind	126	– 6½	4.5	21.3
1.30	Bilton	81	– 1½	8.5	45.9
576.00	Bodycote	720	– 5	1.2	29.9
3.40	Booth Inds	42½

هكذا من الاصل

Gokal to face BCCI civil suit

Liquidators of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) will this week resume civil proceedings against Abbas Gokal, the disgraced shipping tycoon, in their efforts to recover funds for depositors.

Gokal, 61, was convicted of fraud and false accounting involving $1.2 billion, and will be sentenced next month. Christopher Morris of Deloitte & Touche, *the joint* liquidator, intends to press on with civil action against him. Further proceedings are pending in Pakistan against Gokal's defunct shipping company, the Gulf Group.

The liquidators believe Gokal may have assets worth *£20 million*, including a home in Ealing, West London, held through nominee companies.

High hopes

Managers of small and medium-sized companies in Britain and Spain are confident *about their economic* prospects, while their counterparts in France, Germany and Italy remain pessimistic. According to the 3i European *Enterprise Centre survey out* today, managers of British and Spanish companies expect to take on more staff in the year ahead and see higher turnover and profit.

Strong pressure

Pressure from *non-executive* directors on Liam Strong, *chief executive* of the ailing Sears retail group, is likely to intensify at a board meeting today after disappointing news from the Selfridges, Freemans and Adams group. So far Mr Strong has been stoutly defended by Sir Bob Reid, the chairman.

Lost millions

Deutsche Morgan Grenfell (DMG) has confirmed that it lost several million pounds — described as "minimal" — from trades by the bank's *New York operation as a* result of a difference of opinion over valuation in equity derivatives.

Low pay deals

Average pay deals in the engineering industry in the three months to February were at their lowest for two years, at 3.08 per cent, according to a survey of more than 400 firms from the Engineering Employers' Federation.

COMPANIES  MICHAEL CLARK

Tesco tipped to hit rivals for six with 10 per cent profit rise

TESCO: Full-year figures tomorrow should confirm the group's position as Britain's premier food retailer as Terry Leahy settles into the chief executive's chair. A recent *industry survey indicated* Tesco was continuing to grab market share at the expense of its closest rival, J. Sainsbury.

NatWest Securities is looking for a 10 per cent increase in pre-tax profits from £680.7 *million last year*, to around £750 million, producing an 8 per cent increase in earnings per share to 23.7p. Overall sales are thought to have risen about 14 per cent to £13.7 billion with like-for-like sales up a *healthy 7.5 per cent, two points* above the industry average. Any fall in prices will have been more than offset by improved sales volumes of 5 per cent generated by Clubcard and Christmas promotions. A healthy increase in petrol margins is likely to trim an overall reduction in margins.

The move into financial services is likely to result in start-up costs of £15 million next year and in 1999, but NatWest continues to look for a final figure in the current year of £815 million. A 9 per cent increase in the payout to 10.5p is envisaged.

MANCHESTER UNITED: The *Premiership side's* Old Trafford stadium is filled to its 55,000 capacity every home game now that the new stand has been completed. That increase in gate revenue should be clearly reflected in half-year figures today, with pre-tax profits before transfers ranging from £16 million to £18 million, compared with £11 million last time. The figures are usually heavily weighted towards the first half, which covers the main football season. Even so, brokers are looking for full-year profits of £27.5 million against £16.7 million last time.

TARMAC: Brokers will be keeping a close eye on the group's progress after the asset swap with rival George Wimpey. Signs of improved efficiency will be required when the group unveils full-year figures tomorrow, although this is unlikely to be reflected in the profit numbers.

At the pre-tax level profits are expected to tumble almost 40 per cent from £97.1 million to £60 million, with earnings down from 7.5p to 4.5p. On the plus side, the aggregates arm of the business should reveal *firm volumes, with prices in* Britain up between 6 per cent and 8 per cent, explaining why many investors have been happy to play Tarmac as a recovery situation.

In the US profits will be up with the help of a combination of higher prices and volumes and reduced costs. Professional services may have traded in the red, while contracting should produce a small improvement. The dividend is likely to be pegged at 5.5p.

HIGHLAND DISTILLERIES: There will be keen interest in half-year figures tomorrow, with brokers anxious to see how Macallan Glenlivet is *settling in after last year's acquisition.*

Profits at the pre-tax level will be up 17 per cent from £22.2 million to £26 million, *boosted by a first-time contri*bution from Macallan, which makes around 60 per cent of its profits during the period covering Christmas. As a result, Macallan will have enhanced earnings during the first half, but is likely to dilute earnings for the year as a whole.

Both the price and sales of *its Famous Grouse brand* have declined marginally during the past three years, largely because of aggressive pricing tactics by rivals Bell's and Teacher's. *The market* will want to be reassured that the change of ownership has not disrupted the strong growth enjoyed by Macallan *in recent years.*



Terry Leahy is expected field an impressive set of figures for Tesco tomorrow

SMITHS INDUSTRIES: A strong performance from the group is expected by brokers when it unveils half-year figures on Wednesday. Pre-tax profits of around £80 million have been pencilled in, compared with £69.5 million last time. That is likely to produce earnings *per share* up from 15.4p to 17.4p.

Much of that growth is expected to come from aerospace, which continues to enjoy a revival of fortune worldwide. Smiths will have benefited from increased production quotas for the Boeing 737 and 777 series of which more than 1,000 are on order. *This trend is expected* to continue over the next few years with increased volumes pushing up margins.

In addition, medical systems *is expected to provide* double-digit growth, while the return on investments is likely to be around 13 per cent. The payout should grow 14 per *cent from 5.6p to 6.4p.*

RMC GROUP: The German recession is likely to cast a long shadow over the full-year figures on Thursday, with most brokers looking for a sharp downturn in profitability. Current estimates range from £260 million to £275 million, compared with £329.3 million last time. That is a *downturn of almost 20 per* cent. Earnings per share will be down 21 per cent from 77.5p to 61.1p.

The group is thought to *have turned in a solid* performance in Britain, underpinned by the upturn in housing starts during the second half of the year. This will have spilled over into other areas of the business such as aggregates, blocks, concrete products and blacktop.

The lacklustre German residential housing market and a rising tax charge will take *much of the glitter off this* otherwise impressive performance. Yet shareholders might be able to expect a small increase in the dividend of around 4 per cent to 26.25p.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

City looks for pointers on interest rates

Economic statistics are likely to take a back seat for the next couple of weeks, now that the election campaign is in full flow, with the markets most concerned with pointers for the interest rate outlook *in the summer.*

The monthly monetary meeting on Thursday is expected to be purely academic, unless Kenneth Clarke makes a surprising bid for a place in history by becoming the first Chancellor to raise rates in the middle of an election campaign. Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, is expected to use the occasion as a warm-up for the more important May meeting, when the Bank is likely to press the incoming Chancellor for an *immediate rate rise.*

The industrial production figures, published on Wednesday, are expected to show that the manufacturing sector *remains relatively weak, with* the rising pound beginning to take its toll of export output. MMS, the economic forecast group, predicts that manufacturing production will fall 0.1 per cent in February with the annual rate declining from 1.6 per cent to 1.4 per cent.

In the US, Wall Street will be nervously watching the *retail sales figures for March*, due to be released on Friday. Evidence of further strong demand growth will harden the view that the Federal Reserve will tighten rates further in the coming months. MMS predicts retail sales will grow strongly again, rising 0.8 per cent in March. But factory-gate prices are predicted to remain subdued with no change in March expected for the producer prices index.

The German Government should be able to take some *relief from the latest unem*ployment figures from Germany, due out tomorrow. Unemployment is predicted to fall by around 30,000 from its *record high — the first decline* for almost a year.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: Manchester United, MY Holdings. **Finals:** Burmah Castrol, CFS Group, DCS Group, Goldsmiths Group, Intermediate Capital Group, Moss Bros Group, Thompson Clive Investment, Trafficmaster. **Economic statistics:** G10 central bank governors' committee meeting at Bank for International Settlements.

TOMORROW

Interims: *James Halstead* Group, Highland Distilleries, *London & St Lawrence.* **Finals:** Brands Hatch Leisure, Cassell, *Horace Clarkson*, Dewhirst Group, Golden Vale, IBC Group, Oasis Stores, QS Holdings, RJB Mining, Tarmac, Tesco, Vymura, Yorklyde.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: Dowding & Mills, Smiths Industries. **Finals:** Abbot Group, Caverdale Group, Friendly Hotels, Highcroft Investment Trust, Lamont Holdings, Martin International, Sentry Farming. **Economic statistics:** February industrial production, manufacturing output; February housing starts and completions.

THURSDAY

Interims: Wyefield. **Finals:** CIA Group, French Connection, RMC Group. **Economic statistics:** Kenneth Clarke/Eddie George monthly monetary policy meeting; February new construction orders; SMMT March new car registrations.

FRIDAY

Interims: Cirqual. **Finals:** None scheduled.

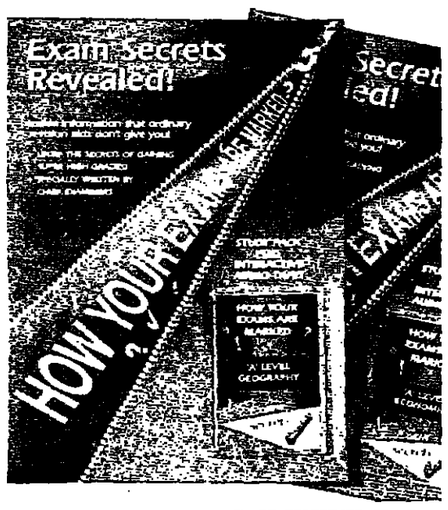
SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: **Buy** Smiths Industries, Medeva and J Saville Gordon; **Hold** LucasVarity, Burmah Castrol and Roxspur. *The Sunday Telegraph*: **Buy** Flextech, Cassell and Rackwood Minerals. *Mail on Sunday*: **Buy** Maid and Pembertons. *Sunday Business*: **Buy** Glynwed International, Chemring.

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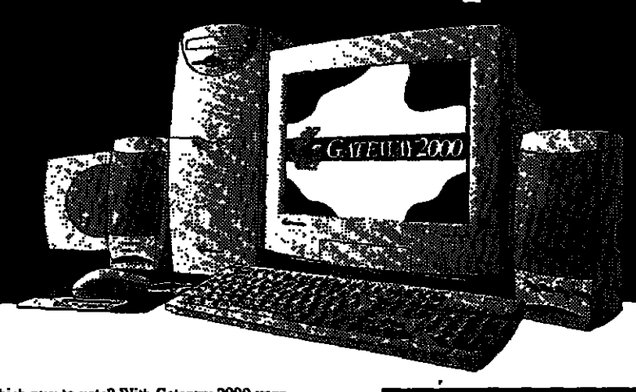
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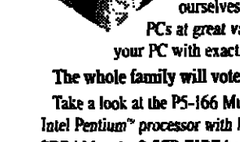
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CHANGING TIMES

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Tories are victims of their own success

How can a government that is presiding over such a strong economic performance be so far behind in the opinion polls? The answer tells us something about past failure, but even more about past success.

Perhaps the voters do not feel as well off as the current economic statistics imply they should? The Eighties were a *sustained* consumer boom whereas the current consumer strength comes after a period of comparative restraint.

The average growth of consumption in the five years 1984-88 was just over 5 per cent. The equivalent figure for 1992-96 is 2 per cent. And, of course, an average is an average. There are plenty of individuals who are not able to join in the spending spree, still weighed down by the effects of the recession.

But economics is not only about statistics. The expression "consumer *confidence*" says it all. When it comes to people, how they feel about their situation is critical. The well-attested feelings of job insecurity, whether justified or not, are surely weighing on voters' conception of how well off they are.

Moreover, illusions can also play a part. People may be feeling worse off than they really are because they are missing inflation. Not the price rises, of course, but the big pay rises and surging house prices. In the past few months, they have again enjoyed this elixir, but the doses are well down on previously accustomed levels.

Inflation gets into the psyche. The inflationary culture may remain unaffected long after the inflation rate has fallen. Whatever economists say about *real* values, a 3 or 4 per cent pay rise does not feel like justification for a celebratory dinner, while a 7 or 8 per cent increase in property prices does not allow you to reckon that your house earned you more than your job, or to fantasise about early retirement. To the extent that the Conservatives are suffering in the polls because of low inflation they are the victims of their own success. This is also true in a deeper sense. For the best part of two decades now, they have told us not to expect economic salvation from the State, but rather to look to our own efforts. Unemployment soaring? Not the Government's fault, we were told. Unions should moderate their pay demands and then more jobs would appear. And for those caught without a job while they waited for unions to moderate their demands, the message was even clearer — "get on your bike". Company profits under pressure? Not the Government's affair. "Cut your costs and manage your business properly."

In the end, individuals and companies got the message, and



ROGER BOOTLE

economic success ensued. Now the Government wishes to claim that success for itself. But people know that they have won it by their own efforts not as the result of some government handout, or even some masterminded official decision.

Indeed, rather the opposite. People know that the current strong economic recovery, accompanied by low inflation and low interest rates, was facilitated by our exit from the ERM. They also know that, far from this being the result of carefully laid plans, it came *despite* the Government's best efforts to stay in.

In their expectation of credit for recent economic performance, the Conservatives are showing that they have not fully learnt their own lessons. Before they began their programme of *withdrawal from* economic management, under both parties the State was deeply involved in nearly all major economic decisions. Not only did it claim to operate the macroeconomic levers so as to ensure full employment, but through ownership of the nationalised industries it influenced key decisions on the level and type of investment, employment and prices. It also *exerted considerable* influence over pay and prices even in the private sector, through various sorts of prices and incomes policy, and through its continuous efforts to mollify the trade unions.

Meanwhile, economic relations with the rest of the world were conducted through an exchange rate set and maintained by the State. Moreover, if a company wanted to invest abroad, the State controlled its access to funds. If you wanted to go on holiday, the State told you how much spending money you could take in foreign currency.

Scarce wonder, that in this environment, if your company hit bad times, or even if it needed finance to prepare for good times, you asked the State for help.

For an economy run like *this*, performance is surely down to the Government. But this is precisely the sort of economy that the Conservatives sought to break away from. And they succeeded. That's why they do not get the credit for current prosperity. In a sense — of which they should feel proud — they don't deserve it.

Nevertheless, surely the Conservatives do deserve credit for shrinking the economic role of the State and encouraging markets in the first place? But so great has *been their success in the battle of* ideas that this is now the new cross-party consensus. What's more, the voters now take it for granted. Consequently, economic competence is no longer an election winner. The business of politics can now revolve around other issues — just as it used to in the 19th century.

It is rather like Winston Churchill's failure to win the general election in 1945. It was not that voters did not appreciate what he had done to win the war, but rather that politics had moved on. With the war won, the issue was what to do with the peace.

ScotPower in dispute over assets of Manweb

BY CARL MORTISHED

SCOTTISHPOWER'S auditor has qualified its opinion of the 1996 regulatory accounts of Manweb, the regional electricity company acquired by ScottishPower in a contested £1.1 billion takeover in 1995.

Coopers & Lybrand, the accountant, has taken issue with ScottishPower's decision not to write down the value of Manweb's distribution assets.

According to the accountant, the assets are overstated by £264 million in the current cost accounts and should have been written down, a change which would have left Manweb with an operating loss of £196 million for the year to March 31, 1996.

The disagreement highlights the problem facing BG, which has been warned by its auditor, Price Waterhouse, that it may have to write down the assets of TransCo by billions of pounds if the Monopolies and Mergers Commission adopts the much lower Ofgas valuation of the pipeline system.

The accounting debate puts a spotlight on the gas regulator's decision to base her valuation of TransCo on the price at which the shareholders invested in the business rather than the cost of replacing the assets. The MMC is due to hand its report to the DTI in the coming weeks.

The dispute over Manweb's asset value arose after the takeover and the need to attribute a fair value to Manweb's assets.

This was set at £594 million, a figure which is equivalent to the asset value used by the regulator in establishing a pricing formula for Manweb but is lower than the net current replacement cost of £858 million.

The latter figure is arrived at by applying an inflation index to the historic cost of the assets. According to current cost accounting rules, the assets must be stated at the lower of net current replacement cost and recoverable amount.

The issue facing the utilities is even more thorny because under current cost rules Manweb's depreciation charge would remain high even had it written down the assets. The current cost convention requires a company to assess depreciation on the full cost of rebuilding the asset base today.

ScottishPower said that it chose not to write down the assets in the regulatory accounts because these current cost accounts are used largely for comparative purposes and the other regional electricity companies (Recs) have not written down their assets. "It is easier to compare, if all the Recs are doing the same," a spokesman said.

Brown, Shipley to resign as AIM adviser

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET

BROWN, SHIPLEY & CO, *the merchant bank*, will today resign as an adviser to companies on the Alternative Investment Market after its entire AIM team left to join larger companies (Fraser Nelson writes).

The bank is the first adviser to fall foul of the Stock Exchange requirement that nominated advisers have at least four staff qualified to work with AIM companies. As a result, it has lost its 12 clients, including Mulberry Group and newly floated Sanctuary Music. Most have found new advisers and none is expected to lose its listing.

Alpha Omikron last week became the third company to be ejected from the AIM after it failed to find a replacement for Henderson Crosthwaite, which resigned as its adviser.

The events caused concern that Stock Exchange rules give companies too little time to appoint successors if dropped by nominated advisers.

Many of Brown's clients were able to ask their broker to double as adviser, but they too would have been banished from the market if unable to find a successor within two months.

The junior exchange did slightly better than the main list under the global market downturn last week, with the *FT-SE AIM index down* 1.94 per cent to 1,087.80.

1997 High	1997 Low	Mkt cap (million)		Price pence	+/-	Yld %	P/E
139½	100½	10.20	AFA Systems	102½	– 10	...	...
153½	148½	21.40	AMCO Corp	150	– 1½	5.1	10.9
422½	170	66.90	AND Int Pub	312½	+ 5	...	...
107½	84½	6.53	Abacus Recruit	100½	...	0.6	19.4
164½	99½	21.90	Access Plus	155½	– 4	3.9	20.3
100½	45	8.50	Active Imaging	46½	– 2	...	...
200	200	29.50	A de Gmchy	200	...	3.9	15.0
11¼	9¼	10.00	African Gold	9¼	– ¼	...	20.7
117½	93½	45.30	Aintech	99½	– 2	...	...
44½	31¼	14.90	Albemarle & Bd	39½	...	0.8	17.0
50½	29½	8.39	Alizyme	48½	+ 3	...	...
111½	101½	3.10	Anglo-Welsh	101½	...	3.0	...
525	455	48.10	Ann St Brewery	502½	– 2½	4.9	11.3
1125	1015	6.64	Ann St Cv Pf	1120	...	7.1	...
99½	65½	64.60	Antenov	88½	– 4	...	...
148½	120½	21.40	Aortech	124½	+ 4	...	...
100½	100	10.20	Archer Dedicated	100	...	1.0	55.6
8	7	1.78	Arion Props	7½	...	...	55.4
115	30½	56.20	Ashurst	65	...	...	...
215	155½	32.50	Ask Central	200	– 5	...	...
64½	64½	1.16	Athelney Trust	64½	...	...	...
103½	101½	77.40	Avalon Oil	101½	...	...	...
143½	130½	43.30	BATM Adv Comms	139½	– 1	...	...
59½	47½	9.17	Barbican Health	47½	...	...	...
7½	6½	11.50	Barrasford	7½	...	...	...
3¼	2¾	6.13	Beechcroft	3¼	...	...	9.0
3¼	2½	8.23	Beaufort	3¼	...	...	34.5
76½	61½	5.52	Bilston Bltrsea	62	– 3½	3.0	...
64	42½	22.60	Birmingham City	45½	– 1	...	...
175	145	1.18	Bowness Leis	172½	+ 10	3.3	7.4
62½	45½	8.68	Beaucote Hdgs	50	– 2½	...	...
93	88	3.78	Br Bloodstock	90	– 1	2.1	25.8
530	510	64.90	Brookbank	530	...	2.0	12.9
167½	144½	17.80	CA Cooits Hldgs	167½	+ 2	2.3	...
180	128½	8.97	C & B Publishing	175	...	...	...
109½	109½	0.12	CCI Founder Shs	109½	...	...	...
177½	146½	1.42	CCI Hldgs	177½	+ 5	1.8	8.0
210½	170	5.43	Cafe Inns	190	...	1.6	14.6
70	55	7.35	Caledonian Tst	60	...	...	10.2
3½	3	3.25	Caffdore Group	3¼	...	...	...
1½	0½	1.60	Caffdore Grp Wts	1	...	...	...
17½	13	2.82	Cambridge Min Res	13	– ½	...	...
50	29	42.90	Card Clear	43½	+ 2½	...	49.0
97½	67½	6.84	Carisbrooke Shop	67½	...	6.5	8.4
82	52	3.17	Cassidy Bros	58	+ 1	6.5	14.9
57½	54½	2.40	Cavendish W	55	...	3.4	26.3
18	15¾	5.33	Celebrated Group	16	– ½	2.1	14.2
£550	£305	91.30	Celtic	£315	...	...	...
£450	£275		Celtic Pl Shs	£275	...	...	...
111½	96½	14.40	Cl Comms(TV)	106½	– 1	3.3	12.6
65	55	13.20	Charlton Athlic	60½	– 4	...	...
9	6¼	8.25	Charterhouse	8¼	+ ½	...	17.3
37½	27½	3.15	Chartwell Intl	27½	– 8	...	...
170	114½	186.80	Chelsea Village	124½	– 2	...	...
265	145	15.00	Chemical Design	230	– 10	...	36.7
202½	75	8.15	Circle Comms	75	...	...	5.7
110	110	0.99	Clan Homes	110	...	...	72.7
2½	2½	1.05	ClubPartners	2½	...	...	...
542½	527½	12.70	Com de Prt Fin	527½	...	2.3	10.4
30	14	9.65	Concurrent Tech	20½	– 3	0.6	32.3
150	95	0.25	Conc Tech A Pf	100	...	...	...
150	95	0.20	Conc Tech B Pf	100	...	...	...
200	125	1.01	Conc Tech Rd Pf	100	...	...	...
300	150	8.17	Conc Tech Cv Pf	225	...	...	...
41	36½	8.80	Consstar Tst	40	– 1	6.2	9.9
4¼	2	3.90	Corporate Exec	2½	...	...	12.6
209½	153½	38.10	Country Gdns	206½	+ 24	1.0	...
169	117½	5.87	Cntry Gdns Pf	180	+ 10	4.2	...
37½	22½	8.68	Crecs Intl	22½	...	...	...
290	235	3.76	Crown Eye	235	...	6.6	5.8
28½	15½	7.46	Crown Products	16	– 2	...	40.0
20½	18½	0.89	DaBelth Inns	18½	...	...	...
92½	84½	5.01	David Gloss	92½	...	6.8	10.6
198	120½	5.27	Dawn Tft Distr	150	...	...	11.6
2550	2150	127.70	Dawson Hldgs	2260½	+ 50	2.2	17.6
15½	10½	7.14	Dean Corp	15½	+ ½	1.6	13.7
174½	169½	10.60	Deep Sea Leisure	169½	...	...	22.7
3¼	2½	3.23	Dentmaster	2½	...	...	16.6
460	400	50.90	Dicom	400	– 14½	0.5	16.4
105½	89½	15.40	Digital Ammin	105	+ ½	...	...
72½	50½	12.90	Dmatek	69	...	...	...
270	240	12.20	Dobbies Garden	260	...	2.2	16.4
3¼	2¾	2.13	Dringg af Balb	2¾	...	...	13.4
67½	46½	8.48	Easynet	58½	+ 3½	...	...
445	207½	64.20	Elec Retail Sys	305	– 20	...	...
69½	36½	33.20	Electrophotonics	50½	– 3	...	...
52½	7½	1.75	Epic Multimedia	7½	– 1	...	...
65	50	14.20	Epicure Netwks	55	– 5	...	...
275	190	8.48	Eurasia Mining	227½	+ 2½	...	...
125	125	5.62	Euro Sales Fn	125	...	...	...
175	165	17.20	Eve Group	175	+ 2½	1.1	...
350	270	6.85	Farlaine	270	– 20	...	18.0
77½	47½	3.54	Fayrewood	67½	...	0.7	13.3
191½	130½	62.20	Fibernet	167½	...	...	...
69½	52½	2.88	Fielders	57½	– 3	3.3	7.6
242½	205	5.72	Finl Pubis	242½	...	...	8.4
14½	11½	2.64	First Indor	13	...	...	...
200	109½	45.20	Fitness First	164½	...	...	64.5
230	175	4.48	Flomerics	175	– 17	2.1	...
282½	272½	8.58	Flopal Sti	285	...	0.7	...
35½	32½	5.53	FNR Hldgs	32½	...	...	...
152½	115½	13.50	Forensican	127½	...	3.2	12.8
110½	89½	9.44	Fountain Forest	107½	...	...	16.6
51¼	42¼	205.70	Freepages	42½	– 3½	...	...
180½	140½	10.70	Furlong Homes	179	– ½	2.3	12.2
144½	124½	15.40	Future Int Telep	138½	– 1	...	...
296	129½	14.00	GB Railways	159½	+ 4½	...	...
55½	52½	16.30	Gall Thomson Env	52½	...	...	9.9
15¾	11½	39.30	Gamler Hdgs	13½	– 1	...	...
107	85½	74.40	Garland W&B	85½	– 3	0.5	7.7
102	54½	87.50	Gen Int Media	87½	– 2	...	...
28	12	30.70	Gold Mines Sard	23¾	– ¾	...	...
17	7	8.03	Gold Mns Sard Wts	15	...	...	...
124½	120½	42.20	Goshawk Insce	124½	...	...	...
15¼	14¼	1.72	Grosvenor Ltd	14¾	...	...	...
148	140	31.60	Gutton	140	– 5	3.9	11.9
330	265	33.00	HIT Entertain	295	+ 5	0.2	...
8	5¾	2.20	Hanscom	5¾	...	...	...
175	158	11.60	Hardy Underwg	158	– 2	...	...
77½	54½	3.42	Hat Pln	77½	+ 17½	4.4	12.4
315	275	7.12	Heavitree	315	...	2.5	16.4
270	245	10.70	Heavitree A	265	...	3.3	13.9
140	110	4.61	Hercules Prop	140	...	...	7.6
175	105	10.60	Highams Sys	130	– 10	...	17.6
123	115	150.80	Hiscox	122½	+ ½	2.6	...
75	75	1.16	Hurlingham	75	...	...	...
107½	104½	7.10	Hydro-Dynamic	105½	– 1	1.4	...
168	138	23.90	IES	157	+ 1	1.3	48.7
77½	66½	17.20	Ind Brit Health	67½	– 5	1.9	9.5
69½	55½	8.99	Indpt Energy	68½	+ 4	...	...
133½	116½	22.90	Indpt Radio	128½	– 3	...	...
179	141½	31.60	Infobank Intl	164	– 6	...	...
60½	42½	11.80	Inner Workings	60½	...	...	...
79½	64½	14.90	Intelligent Env	66½	...	...	48.0
75½	42½	19.60	Internet Tech	71	+ 3½	...	...
151½	57½	19.20	Interoute Tele	57½	– 45	...	...
285	222½	33.30	Intl Greetings	265	...	2.6	14.9
179½	154½	38.10	IOC Intl	155½	– 3	...	49.2
155½	122½	12.80	Jardfinete Int	145½	...	...	...
67½	62½	2.67	Jasmin	65½	...	...	10.8
347	290	25.50	Jennings Bros	346	+ 1	2.5	23.8
4¼	3¾	5.53	J Lewis Hford	4	...	...	21.4
62½	52½	8.49	Jordec	52½	– 2	...	...
5¼	2	6.53	Just Group	4¼	– ¼	...	...
132½	91½	52.40	KS Biomedix	124½	– 7	...	...
50½	47½	5.46	Kern River	47½	...	...	...
132½	77½	26.00	La Senza	77½	...	...	...
150	130	25.50	Lancashire En	140	+ ½	3.9	13.3
385	340	21.50	Lawrence	350	– 1½	2.6	18.0
3350	3150	62.50	Lawrie Group	3350	...	2.6	10.2
358	326	56.70	Le Riches Sts	342	...	6.1	14.4
14	10	0.50	Lds Numbers	10	...	...	...
4	3	0.10	Life Numbrs Wts	3	...	...	...
535	480	10.70	Loades	535	...	0.2	50.7
106½	61½	24.10	Lotus Road	65	– 1½	...	...
12¼	11¼	3.58	Lon & Edin Publ	11¾	...	2.7	8.9
75	70	1.98	London Town	75	...	2.7	14.6
3¼	2¼	4.33	Lotterybing	2½	...	...	32.1
1	0¾	0.13	Lotterybing Wts	0¾	...	...	...
88	58	8.96	MMS Petroleum	74	...	...	...
175	147½	31.90	MTL Inst	175	...	3.6	...
27½	14½	6.84	Magnum Power	15	– ½	...	...
298½	247½	53.10	Majestic Wine	258½	– 1	...	11.2
19½	9½	8.37	Manx & Ocean	14	– 1	2.9	26.7
105	105	2.40	Matrix Hithcare	105	...	8.0	12.1
11¼	10¼	3.87	Mears Group	10¾	...	2.3	...
93½	88½	53.90	Megalomedia	92½	+ 1½	...	51.9
86½	83½	0.93	Megalomedia Wts	85	+ 1½	...	...
57½	49¾	3.45	Melfek	49¾	– 3	6.5	...
65	33½	20.30	Memory Corp	33½	– 4	...	...
16½	7½	5.01	Meteor Tech	7½	– 1	...	...
15	8	0.15	Meteor Tech Wts	8	– ½	...	...
25	20	5.88	Meteodome	24	...	...	...
84½	77½	4.73	Mondas	78½	– 4	...	...
405	280	30.70	Moorepay	405	+ 35	1.8	...
112	90	7.12	Mountcashel	94	– 2	...	8.2
215	169½	36.70	Mulberry Group	185	– 5	0.5	28.9
40	12	3.46	MultiMedia	12	– ½	...	23.8
21	17	1.40	NECA	19	...	3.4	8.0
72½	69½	2.03	NFP	70½	...	1.8	31.2
285	245	18.80	NWF Grp	245	– 5	5.5	12.6
200	190	14.10	Nash (Wm)	200	...	4.3	8.2
300	290	7.44	Neill Clerk	290	...	3.4	10.5
75½	45½	10.40	Netcall	74½	+ 4	...	...
242	185½	70.30	Network Tech	218½	– 9	0.2	31.1
80½	75½	1.50	Northernes	77½	...	...	24.0
60½	30½	4.52	Nthn Petrin	39½	...	...	...
118½	112½	45.60	Nursing Home	115	+ ½	4.0	26.2
239½	210	38.50	Old English Pub	217½	– 4	0.8	68.3
135	102½	15.40	Omnicare	130	– 1½	1.6	...
10½	6½	1.97	Omnimedia	8	...	...	...
97½	62½	2.58	On Line	64½	...	...	...
65½	44½	28.30	Oxford Biomedica	44½	– 3	...	...
67½	37½	8.70	Lmrx	37½	– 45	...	...
3¾	1¾	40.90	Pacific Media	3¼	– ¼	...	...
69½	45½	25.40	Pan Andean Res	57½	+ 2½	...	...
225	220	5.38	Park Ests(Liv)	225	...	4.4	16.4
25½	14	5.89	Pembertons	21¼	– ¼	...	...
57½	40½	6.90	Personal Ne Co	44½	...	...	...
137½	107½	41.50	Philippine Gd	110	– 12½	...	...
59½	52½	11.70	Pilat Tech	52½	...	...	14.7
138½	113½	26.00	Polymasc Pharms	130	– 6½	...	...
2¾	2¼	5.46	Pordum Foods	2½	...	...	...
1½	1	0.27	Pordum Fds Wts	1¼	...	...	...
18	13	10.10	Premier Ast Mgmt	18	...	...	63.4
3	2½	3.15	Presbury Lesc	2½	– ½	16.0	10.7
590	540	10.90	Preston Nth E	550	...	...	...
104½	102½	16.60	Primary Hlth Pr	103½	...	1.4	...
590	295	77.40	Prism Rail	355	– 2	...	...
122½	115½	19.40	Q Group	115½	– 3½	...	...
1265	945	212.20	Ramco Egy	1035	– 32½	0.1	...
110½	77½	11.50	Raphael Zm	107½	...	2.3	12.2
127½	94½	20.20	Recycling Servs	12[illegible]	– 1	3.2	...
128½	106½	9.76	Redlec	12[illegible]	+ 8½	...	...
5½	4½	3.16	Revelation Pic	5½	+ ¼	...	4.8
27	17½	17.80	Riceman Insce	27	...	3.0	18.2
80½	77½	4.03	Rionfec	80½	...	...	...
2¼	2	2.45	Robinsons Wynne	2¼	...	...	...
0¼	0¼	0.07	Roch Wyn Wts	0¼	...	...	...
155½	152½	17.90	SCI Ent	155½	...	...	...
42½	24½	5.54	SSA Multimedia	42½	...	...	...
72½	62½	6.77	Sanbury Musc	72½	...	...	...
12½	5½	0.52	Scotswood Inds	12½	...	8.3	...
57½	44½	6.95	Scott Pickford	57½	...	2.0	19.8
60½	42½	15.40	Scott Pride	60½	...	...	...
6	3¾	9.62	Screen	5	– ¼	...	20.6
350	320	16.30	Scuttons	340	...	4.9	17.6
72	72	14.10	Selector	72	...	...	...
30½	22½	1.37	Sesi Seating	22½	– 2	...	...
174½	154½	8.38	Shelfmove	174½	+ 2	2.9	14.3
104½	74½	4.77	Shelton (M)	90	– 3½	5.9	10.9
233½	208½	27.20	Sinclair Montrs	223½	...	...	...
47½	2¼	7.21	Sinc Bus Serv	47½	...	1.7	24.7
1½	1	0.29	Sinc Bus Wts	1½	...	...	...
3¼	1¾	12.00	Snakeboard	1¾	...	...	...
84½	80½	5.03	Solid State Sp	80½	...	4.3	13.4
34½	28½	3.38	Soundtracs	33½	...	3.0	19.8
783	619½	188.70	Southern News	782½	+ ½	2.9	25.4
70½	65½	13.50	Southern Vectis	70½	+ 1	3.4	15.2
260½	173½	23.60	Stallware	203½	– 22	0.6	...
635	427½	101.30	Stanford Rook	525	+ 32½	...	...
172½	127½	11.20	Stratex	159½	– 1	...	...
496	410	49.30	Surrey Fr Jans	445	– 4	0.7	30.8
150	127	14.50	Sutton Harbour	145	...	1.0	20.7
22	15½	2.08	Syst Integ Rsch	15½	...	...	...
23	18½	4.75	TDS Circuits	22½	...	...	10.4
97½	67½	12.50	Theo Fennell	77½	– 2	...	20.0
14	9½	25.20	Thomas Potts	14	+ 2¼	0.5	...
32½	25½	2.10	Tom Hoskins	27½	+ 1	...	...
198½	150½	25.10	Total Offrm	156½	+ 3	3.8	10.1
515	375	26.70	TRACKER Netwk	505	+ 60	...	...
118	90	22.80	Tradepond Fd	105	– 5	...	...
167	162	4.95	Trinity Care	162	...	3.8	11.7
170	170	1.50	Trinity Care Pf	170	...	5.5	...
60½	33½	176.40	Trocadero	35½	– ½	...	...
298	205½	38.50	UNO	275	– 15	1.9	32.7
40	40	3.65	Univent	40	...	...	...
387½	357½	6.90	Uld Auctions	387½	...	2.6	...
290	160	16.50	VDC	160	...	4.1	12.7
26¼	20¼	67.10	Versailles Grp	26¾	+ ½	0.9	24.7
53	48	92.90	Victory Corp	49	...	...	...
342½	97½	3.38	Viewtin	112½	...	...	...
240	220	5.91	Voss Net	220	– 20	...	...
88	51	20.20	Waterfall	78	+ 2	...	20.5
28	27	5.28	Watermark	28	...	...	8.2
27½	9½	6.77	Wedderburn Secs	24½	...	...	...
11	1¼	0.38	Wadd Secs Wts	11	...	...	...
7	5¼	7.57	Weeks Group	5¾	– ¼	2.8	9.6
115	75	2.90	Wesl 175 Ester	75	...	...	...
£280	£180	14.60	West Bromwich	£200	...	...	...
12½	12½	6.56	Western Selectn	12½	...	...	13.5
4½	4½	0.28	Western Sef Wts	4½	...	...	...
84½	44½	8.74	Westmount Engy	80½	+ 3	...	...
69½	63½	3.40	Whitecross	63½	...	...	...
245	205	34.20	Whittard Chelsea	215½	– 12	1.4	25.7
70½	45½	7.61	W'cheale M Mid	65½	– 2	...	...
171½	168	37.00	World Telecom	171½	+ 1½	...	...
130	120	4.10	Wynnstay Props	130	...	4.5	18.6
12	10	5.23	Xenex Comp	10	...	...	...
157½	132½	6.83	Yeoman	135½	...	...	...
300	290	26.70	Zergo	290	...	...	72.8
29½	17½	4.03	Zicar Mining	17½	– 3	...	...

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.20	2.04
Austria Sch	20.23	18.73
Belgium Fr	59.59	55.09
Canada $	2.395	2.225
Cyprus Cyp£	0.855	0.795
Denmark Kr	11.00	10.20
Finland Mkk	6.73	6.05
France Fr	9.67	8.97
Germany Dm	2.90	2.68
Greece Dr	448	422
Hong Kong $	13.43	12.33
Iceland	120	100
Ireland Pt	1.09	1.01
Israel Shk	5.79	5.14
Italy Lire	2866	2666
Japan Yen	216.50	200.50
Malta	0.663	0.596
Netherlds Gld	3.248	2.998
New Zealand $	2.51	2.29
Norway Kr	11.84	10.84
Portugal Esc	267.50	257.50
S Africa Rd	7.83	7.03
Spain Pta	242.50	225.50
Sweden Kr	13.20	12.20
Switzerland Fr	2.48	2.30
Turkey Lira	217122	203122
USA $	1.738	1.608

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques.

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar
1.6402 (+0.0099)
German mark
2.7490 (+0.0145)
Exchange index
98.6 (+0.6)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

FT 30 share
2817.4 (-34.0)
FTSE 100
4236.6 (+23.7)
New York Dow Jones
6526.07 (-214.52)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge
17860.59 (-349.83)

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Train groups on 'wrong side of financial tracks'

BY ROBERT MILLER

A DAMNING report published today spells out the serious financial difficulties faced by at least five of the newly privatised train companies.

The Prospects for the Franchised Railway, compiled by Tim Powell, a former transport studies director at Coopers & Lybrand, says that five of the new train companies will incur heavy losses during their franchise terms. At least five others are likely to experience "serious financial difficulty".

Mr Powell is expected to conclude that a number of the train companies will need to receive additional public funding if the travelling public and commuters are not to face further serious disruption.

In his report, commissioned by Save Our Railways, a pressure group, Mr Powell sets out which franchises face collapse and which will make respectable returns. The 25 privatised rail companies will receive £1.84 billion worth of subsidies in the current financial year, falling to £729.3 million by 2003-04, when the seven-year franchises end.

Keith Bill, national secretary of Save Our Railways, said: "This report will shock most people in the rail industry, the City and, of course, rail passengers in many parts of Britain."

Many of the train companies that successfully tendered for privatised rail contracts did so on bullish forecasts of future profitability, with little margin built in for error. On the heavily used commuter lines, particularly in the South East and South West, there is little prospect of attracting a huge increase in the number of regular customers.

Some franchises, however, start off by receiving relatively large subsidies tailing off to a point where they will be paying back funds to the Franchising Director.

Virgin West Coast, for example, part of Richard Branson's group of companies, is investing £750 million and receiving a further £1.5 billion in subsidy. But before its 15-year contract ends Virgin West Coast will be paying back more than £200 million a year.

Will Whitehorn, Virgin's spokesman, said yesterday: "We are investing heavily in new high-speed tilting trains, and when we have completed the programme we aim to cut journey times and take on airlines, coaches and cars. We hope to cut the journey of two hours and 50 minutes to Manchester by an hour."

Specific details of the privatised rail companies facing financial difficulties will be unveiled today.



Ernest Saunders, believed to be earning $500,000 a year in the US, is at the centre of a row between shareholders

Saunders forced back into spotlight

BY GRAHAM SEARJEANT

ERNEST SAUNDERS, the former chairman and chief executive of Guinness, is in an uncomfortable position at the centre of a business and legal row that has blown up between the two main shareholders of Harpur-Gelco, a Minneapolis-based information systems group that runs the Overdrive and Dialcard fuelcards.

The row between David Elias, whose Richbell group controlled Harpur, and Jupiter Partners of the US, majority holder of the merged H-G Holdings, has unveiled Mr Saunders's quiet resurgence to an international management role thought to be paying him $500,000 a year.

He has been chairing H-G's management committee, without being a director, since last July, when he was brought in to guide the managers of the group, whose 1994 merger has not proved smooth. After Mr Saunders' early release from Ford open prison, Mr Elias was one of the first to use his talents as a consultant to Richbell. Now the two have fallen out. Overworked lawyers were once more trying to counter any apportionment of blame.

Utilities to launch rates fight

BY ROBERT MILLER

PRIVATISED utility companies are to launch a campaign against plans to link a new business rate with profits that could cost up to £3 billion a year.

The 12-strong Wood committee, set up by the Department of the Environment last November under the chairmanship of a leading QC, is studying different ways in which the former public utilities might pay rates in the future.

Such a new tax would be in addition to Labour's planned "windfall" levy. The Wood committee, which is due to report in September, might introduce a new formula to calculate the level of rates paid by water, electricity, gas and rail companies.

Kay Hand, of the Electricity Association, which represents power companies, generators and distributors, said it would submit responses to the committee shortly. The association is expected to argue that utilities should be taxed in the same way as other companies.

After May 1: EMU debated and rates up

This Thursday, the curtain will drop for the last time on the Ken and Eddie show, unless opinion polls turn out to be even more misleading than in 1992. The case for a rate hike has grown, but — however much Kenneth Clarke wants to be remembered as a sound Chancellor — the economy remains the Conservatives' one trump card and a rate hike now would only strengthen Labour's claim that an unsustainable pre-election boom has been created.

With Labour already using the "b" word, the odds of rate hikes after the election are high. The Deputy Governor of the Bank of England has said he would prefer base rates 0.25 per cent to 1 per cent higher; Gordon Brown, the putative Chancellor, will want to earn credibility, and can blame Tory excesses. Expect a half-point base rate rise as early as May 7, when the first monetary meeting after the election is due. As base rates rise, the yield curve will flatten, but this, in itself, is no reason to buy gilts at present. If base rates rise by only a half point immediately after the election, investors are better off holding cash, unless yields on ten-year gilts rise by less than seven basis points. Such a small rise in yields would imply a significant and unlikely flattening of the ten-year yield curve from 1.5 to one percentage point. In the event of base rates rising a further half point later this summer, the break-even rise in yield drops to six basis points and the yield curve would have to become as flat as it was in 1992, when the UK was in recession, with a gap of only 0.45 per cent between three-month and ten-year rates.

GILT-EDGED

One can argue that a base rate hike is already discounted, but one needs only to look at recent behaviour in the US to see the dangers in this assumption. Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the Federal Reserve, made it pretty clear that he intended to raise rates and so it was supposedly discounted by the markets. Nevertheless, in the week after the quarter-point Fed funds hike, ten-year US yields backed up 0.2 per cent. Investors have reasoned that if the Fed can hike once, it can hike twice or even thrice. It is likely to be a similar story in the UK. This interest-rate cycle will not be as dramatic as previous cycles, but rates are a blunt weapon and Labour has eschewed raising income taxes as an alternative way to restrain demand — at least in its first Budget.

Surprisingly, the gilts market has been warming to the idea of a Labour victory. Even more surprising is the fact that the market wants a landslide. One opinion poll last week showed Labour's lead shrinking. If this were to continue, raising the spectre of only a narrow Labour victory or even a hung parliament, gilt yields would rise. It is argued that a sizeable majority would strengthen the leadership's hand and enable Tony Blair to keep the remaining left-wing pressure groups in his party under control. In this case, fiscal and monetary policy would be relatively tight, but, more importantly, Mr Blair would be able to override the Labour Eurosceptics and adopt a pro-EMU stance. If the UK is going to join EMU, the gilt-Bund spread is extremely attractive, even if entry is delayed a year or two.

Certainly, after the election, the EMU debate will heat up. Continental governments have been quiet about the UK's position, but this will change after May 1; business is also likely to become more vocal about risks of being left out. However, Labour has pledged a referendum and Mr Brown has already added his own conditions to the Maastricht criteria. As for fiscal policy, demands on the public purse already seem to be building up, even with very low rates of unemployment and even before the pressure groups muffled by Mr Blair in the run-up to the election come out of the woodwork. It will be some months before Labour's policies become clear. Meanwhile, base rates will rise. Investors considering buying gilts should hold off for a few months.

GLENN DAVIES AND ALASTAIR ALEXANDER
Credit Lyonnais

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 38

GREMIAL
(b) Pertaining to the lap or bosom. As a noun, "the cloth laid on a bishop's knees to keep the oil off his vestments during ordinations". Also *gremial* is a suitable word for a table napkin, which can be tucked in at the neck or spread across the lap.

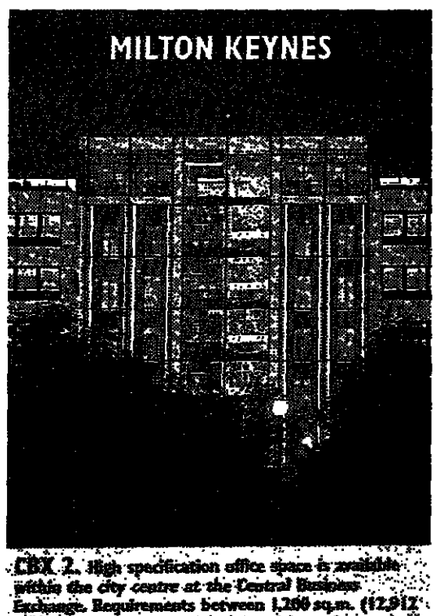
TONITRUOUS
(c) Thunderous, explosive. From the Latin words for thunder and thunderous. "And what is our mood this merry evening, Moon of my Delight? Equanimitous or tonitruous?"

GRIDE
(c) To scratch, scrape or cut with a sound that grates the ears. Onomatopoeic. A useful little word that deserves to be more widely used, for example, to describe the screech of chalk or fingernail on blackboard, or the compositions of some modern serious musicians.

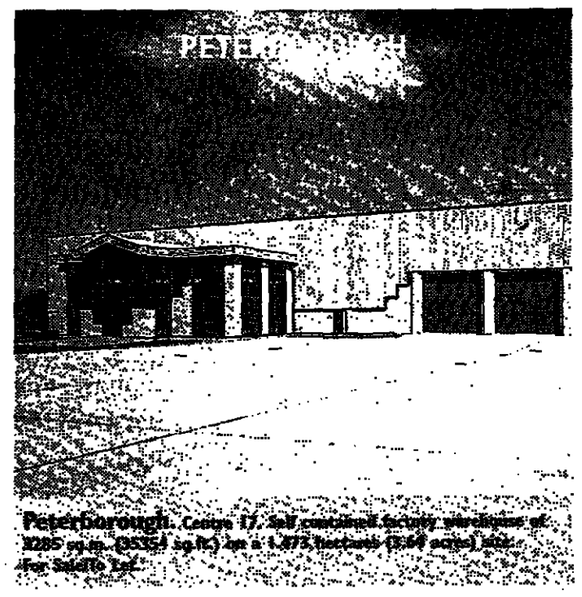
REMIPED
(c) Having feet adapated for use as oars. For example, swans, ducks and certain insects. From the Latin *rēmex* a rower, *rēmigo* I row + *pes, pedis* a foot. The word may be used as a substitute for megapod when arguing with a policeman.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

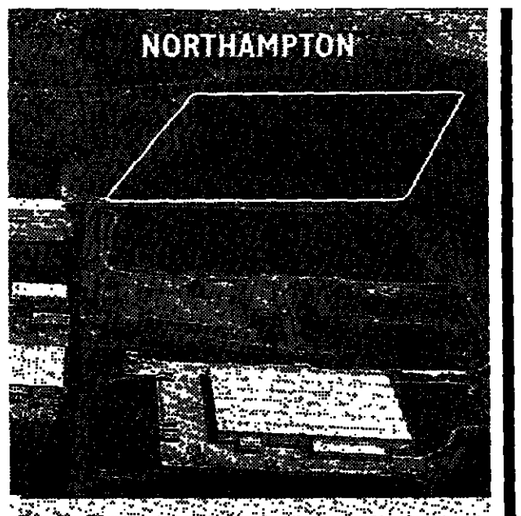
1 ... Nf4+! 2 gxf4 (2 Kg1 Qh7 wins quickly) 2 ... gxf4 3 Qc3 f3+ 4 Kg1 Qh7 and White will soon be mated.



CBX 2. High specification office space is available within the city centre at the Central Business Exchange. Requirements between 1,200 sq.m. (12,912 sq.ft.) and 5,570 sq.m. (59,933 sq.ft.) can be accommodated.

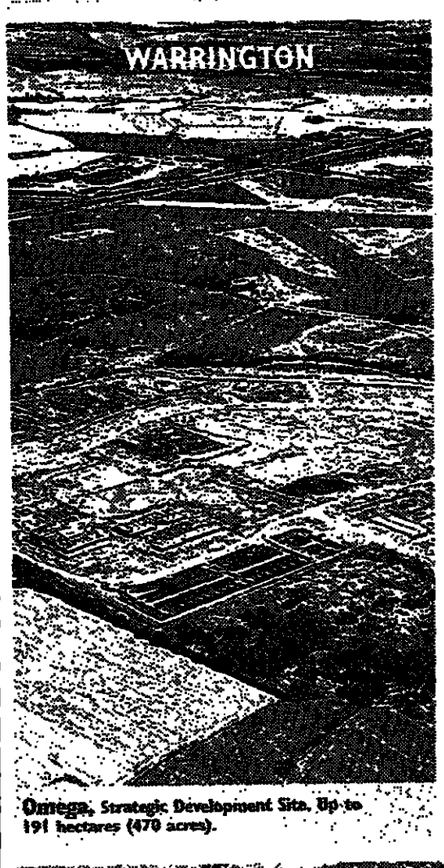


Peterborough. Centre 17. Self contained factory premises of 3285 sq.m. (35354 sq.ft.) on a 1.373 hectare (3.64 acres) site. For Sale/To Let.

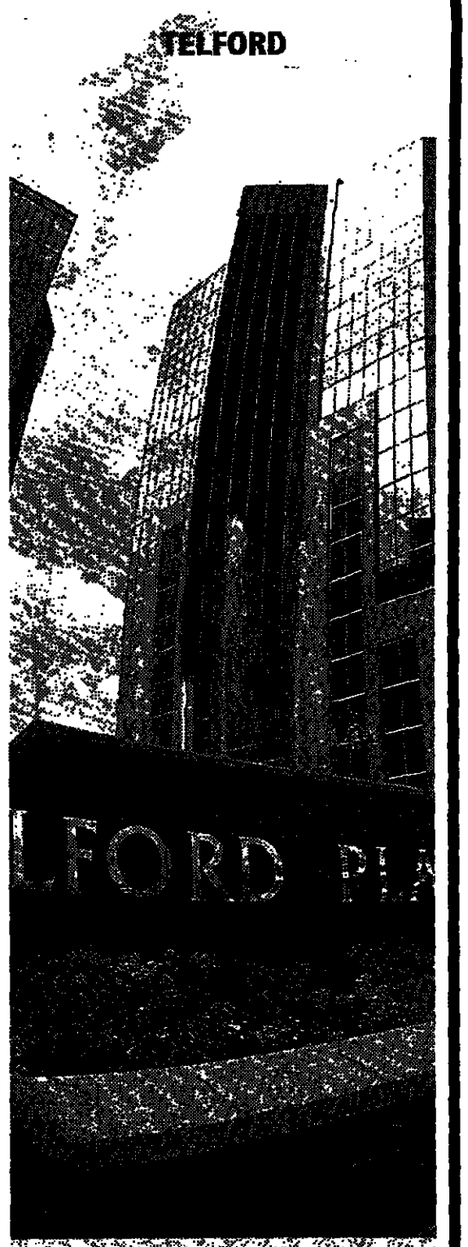


Brackmills Site, 1 on the Brackmills Estate, Northampton, provides a 10.93 hectares (27 acres) development opportunity with excellent links to the M1 at junction 15.

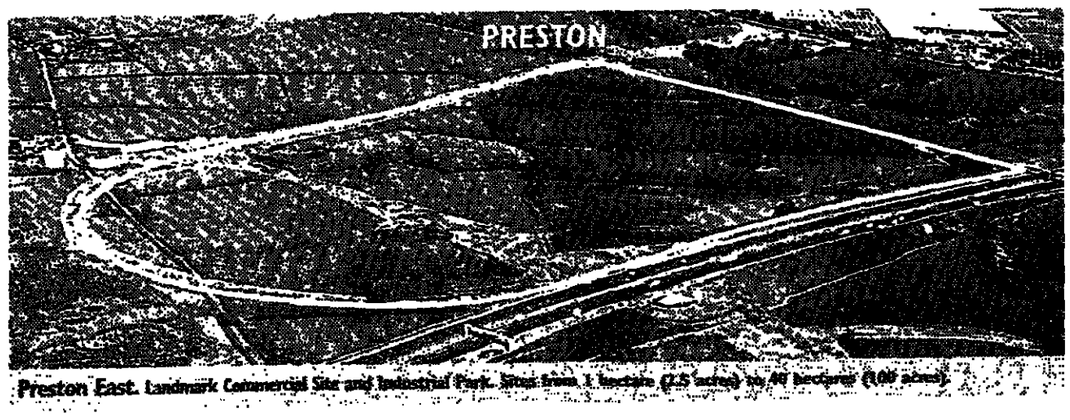
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The hunt is on for partners, says **Oliver August**

Airbus aims high with plans for superjumbo

To some, the Airbus plant in Toulouse is the birthplace of future European industrial power. To others, it is yet another example of wasteful continental megalomania.

Eurosceptics point to Concorde, which soon conformed to the British view of all things French. It sounded great on paper but turned out to be as profitable as the glass pyramid in front of the Louvre.

Airbus managers can now point with pride to their own family of aircraft. Last week British Midland ordered its first planes made in Toulouse in a £200 million deal. The European consortium has not yet matched Boeing's profits, but it is not far from outselling the world's top planemaker.

Concorde One, the first supersonic passenger aircraft, is parked by the factory gates, a reminder of past follies. In the plant, engineers from the four partner nations are assembling the half a million parts that make up an Airbus. Bearded men with Costa del Sol tans are hunched over a spaghetti junction of wires inside an A310 wing, assembled on the old Concorde production site.

The wing skeleton was built in Chester by British Aerospace, flown to Dasa in Hamburg for finishing and sent to Toulouse to be fitted to the fuselage by Aerospatiale. Other wing parts originate from Casa in Spain. The finished aircraft is flown back to Hamburg for the seats to be fitted. European integration in its truest form.

Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, likes to speak of the lands between the Atlantic and the Urals as the common European house. If he came to the A340 plant, the largest building in Europe, according to Airbus, he would find modern technology used to engineer European integration. The bearded men call it automatic riveting. The tiny nuts that hold the aircraft together are shot into the fuselage by a blue octopus-like machine wrapped around the empty hull.

One shudders at the thought of dealing with the political equivalent of an automatic riveting machine. Yet, on his visit, Herr Kohl would no doubt notice that even here in the haven of Euro integration, the British stay on the fringes.

The British Aerospace production centre is hidden on the far side of the plant behind heavy-duty security fences. Over lunch, one French executive bemoaned that the English Channel was still wider than the Atlantic Ocean. Airbus is still less than its constituent companies.



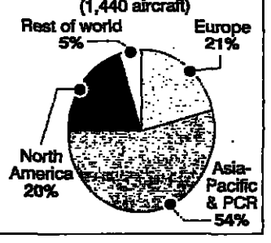
RETURN ON INVESTMENT

30 aircraft per annum				60 aircraft per annum			
Operating Margin (Per cent)	Total investment ($ billion)			Operating Margin (Per cent)	Total investment ($ billion)		
	10	12	15		10	12	15
5	2.8	2.3	1.9	5	5.6	4.6	3.7
10	5.6	4.6	3.7	10	11.1	9.3	7.4
15	8.3	6.9	5.6	15	16.7	13.9	11.1

Source: Merrill Lynch

DEMAND

1997-2016 deliveries of aircraft larger than 747 (1,440 aircraft)



The consortium is about to undergo rite of passage that could establish it as an innovative leader in the world aviation market, or kill the company in one swoop by burdening it with debts. The project in question is the superjumbo, or A3XX.

Boeing has cornered the market in large aircraft with its 747, earning princely profits. Airbus offers its own twin-aisle jumbos, but the 747 is significantly larger. Hence, Airbus is planning to launch a double-deck aircraft that can carry up to 800 or even 1,000 passengers. It is hoping to open up its own large aircraft market and outdo the money-making machine in Seattle. Designers have combined modern fly-by-wire avionics with a fuselage that could hold a McDonald's outlet, a gym or a bar.

The problem is how to pay for it. The cost of developing the A3XX is unclear. The official Airbus figure is $8 billion. Sir Richard Evans, BAe chief executive and an Airbus board member, puts the figure closer to $10 billion. Boeing thinks its rival might spend as much as $12 billion. Mindful of Concorde, some analysts say $15 billion is not unrealistic.

Whatever the final sum, Airbus does not have that kind of money. Sir Richard said: "The A3XX will not be built unless we bring in new partners." Airbus is talking about giving 40 per cent of the project to risk-sharing partners. The logic is simple. Other national champion manufacturers will contribute new funds and act as salesmen to their national carriers.

Airbus is conducting a beauty pageant for competitors interested in a slice of superjumbo work. In Europe, the first partners have been found. Agreements were struck with Fokker Aviation, Belairbus and Finavitec. Talks with Saab are said to be advanced. And Alenia, already Airbus's closest outside partner, wants an 8 to 10 per cent share.

These companies are midgets compared with the Airbus owners. To gain real outside expertise and extra access to world markets, the consortium must look further afield. America is an obvious, if dangerous, choice.

Airbus said about North America: "Discussions with several companies are under way with a potential cumulative programme share of 10-15 per cent." Lockheed Martin is one of the makers courted, but the White House will want to protect Boeing.

The real prize catch would be an Asian company. Technical input might be negligible, but Asia has the world's fastest growing demand for flights, with a particularly high demand for large aircraft. Korean and Chinese companies are the main focus. China alone, with its billion-plus population and annual economic growth of more than 10 per cent, would be ideally suited to the A3XX. Airbus said: "We intend to allocate at least 10-15 per cent of the project to the Far East."

Airbus also wants to make local suppliers risk-sharing partners. This would be the first time that Middle England's widget makers would be involved in such a huge project. Risk-sharing in their cases would mean they had to pay for the development of their own tools and production facilities without being guaranteed usage.

Last, but never least, Airbus wants to tap the budgets of European governments — not for handouts but launch-aid loans. The economic climate may never be as favourable. Barnaby Wiener, of Merrill Lynch, said: "Labour governments have traditionally been keen on long-term investments like this." But Gordon Brown, if he becomes Chancellor, is unlikely to be generous.

BAe could ask for £240 million. Launch aid covers a third of development costs, say $3 billion. After Airbus has farmed out 40 per cent, BAe's A3XX stake will be 12 per cent. As a percentage of $3 billion that is $360 million, or £240 million. The Treasury will need no rocket scientists to work out the commitment.

Is the A3XX another Concorde? Airbus makes a vigourous case for the aircraft. Its research suggests a market for 1,440 superjumbos over the next two decades. Analysts believe realistic demand is only half that. Who is right is secondary. Calculations by Mr Wiener suggest that even at lower production rates, the A3XX can be profitable as long as investment costs are kept down and operating margins are healthy.

Airbus could make an 8.3 per cent return on its A3XX investment even if it sold only half as many aircraft as analysts predict, 30 a year. However, this assumes investment costs of only $10 billion and operating margins of at least 15 per cent.

Whether Airbus is a Phoenix or an Icarus, it's all in the numbers. And should you want a superjumbo, the price tag is $198 million.

TELEVISION CHOICE

A gift for making money

Mrs Cohen's Money
Channel 4, 8.00pm

Meet Mrs Bernice Cohen, one of the less likely hosts for a series on personal finance. But Mrs Cohen has been there and done it and sees no reason why we, too, should not make our money grow like weeds. She is 60, small and voluble and sounds like Barbara Windsor. Seven years ago she lost all her savings in a self-publishing venture. She started again and has made a fortune by investing in stocks and shares. She did it, and this is the message she wants to pass on, with no formal training. Brushing aside the common perception that the stock market is risky, she urges us to remove our money away from boring building societies and take the plunge. Perhaps not all of us have Mrs B's shrewdness. Sensing that Polly Peck was in trouble she sold her shares before you could say Asil Nadir. Much bigger investors were left wishing they had done the same.


Presenter Francine Stock (BBC2, 8.30pm)

The Antiques Show
BBC2, 8.30pm

The title is apt. This is not the *Antiques Roadshow* but a close relative. The new series can offer no equivalent to the amazed look of somebody who paid ten bob for a painting at a jumble sale and now discovers it is worth thousands of pounds. But the magazine format, linked by Francine Stock, offers a diverting mixture of regular strands and one-off reports and has a less elitist feel. The tone is set with a feature on Bridget Beasley, who has been collecting anything and everything for 26 years and has an amazingly cluttered house to prove it. Except that she would not call it clutter. The programme follows an antiques dealer on his rounds and seeks ideas on the antiques of the future. If you believe Sebastian Conran you will be starting to hoard designer lavatory brushes as if they were bars of gold.

The Surgery
Channel 4, 9.00pm

There cannot be many GPs who claim Bertolt Brecht as an inspiration but Dr Aneez Esmail has a Brecht poem constantly in mind. It goes like this. A poor man visits his doctor with a chest infection because his house is damp. The doctor gives the man a prescription but says he really needs a prescription for a new house. Dr Esmail runs a practice in inner-city Manchester. He and his team deal with people who are often victims of bad social conditions. Alcoholism, drug abuse, depression and mental illness are common. It is not surprising that patients can be difficult, sometimes aggressive, and NHS resources are stretched thin. This three-part series highlights dedicated professionals who balance demanding jobs with looking after families and hope, when the evidence often seems to be the contrary, that they can make a difference.

Armstrong and Miller
Channel 4, 11.00pm

It is no good asking the real Alexander Armstrong and Ben Miller to stand up, for the essence of their act is appearing as other people. Their forte is the comedy sketch and they write their material as well as perform it. They have emerged as one of the most promising young double acts on the circuit though on the evidence of this selection, culled from their recent series on the Paramount Comedy Channel, they are still looking to establish a singular identity. Their Flavia and Venetia, shrill owners of a vegetarian restaurant, are Hinge and Bracket crossed with the Two Fat Ladies. But they show a shrewd appreciation of the absurd and they have absorbed that most useful rule of comedy: never be afraid of underplaying. **Peter Waymark**

RADIO CHOICE

Great Clubs of Europe
Radio 5 Live, 7.35pm

It's football clubs that soccer commentator John Motson is on about, specifically some of the clubs that have won the European Cup. This is a six-part series, kicking off tonight with a profile of Real Madrid. In the second half of the 1950s, it began to look as if the cup had taken up permanent residence in Spain — five consecutive wins from 1956 to 1960, another win in 1966 and runners-up honours in 1962 and 1964. Inevitably, Motson recalls the contributions that Alfredo Di Stefano and the Brazilian Raul made to Real Madrid's remarkable run of successes. In the coming weeks, *Great Clubs of Europe* will be turning the spotlight on Celtic, Ajax, Bayern Munich, Liverpool and AC Milan.

Everything but the Crazyhouse
Radio 3, 3.45pm

They've given Russell Davies a series of six half-hour slots to attempt to present a profile of the life of the great jazz player and composer Sidney Bechet. Three hours seems like quite a lot, but it's woefully insufficient to get the full measure of this high achiever. Episode one takes in his apprenticeship years in New Orleans, his move to Chicago and, portentously, to London as clarinet player with the Southern Syncopated Orchestra. It was in London that he swopped clarinet for soprano sax. The celebrated conductor Ernest Ansermet hailed him as a musician of genius and presciently observed that the way he played was perhaps "the highway the whole world will swing along tomorrow". **Peter Davalle**

RADIO 1

7.00 Mark Radcliffe Breakfast Show 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiley 1.00pm Nicky Campbell 4.00 Kevin Greening 6.30 Evening Session 8.30 Live Music Update 8.40 Andy Kershaw 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs 1.00am Claire Sturgess 4.00 Clive Warren with the Early Breakfast Show

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30 Debbie Thrower 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Humphrey Lyttelton 8.00 Malcolm Laycock 9.00 Big Band Special 9.30 Hayes over Britain 10.30 Richard Allinson 12.05am Steve Madden 3.00 Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme 9.00 The Magazine with Diana Madill 12.00 Midday with Mair. Includes at 12.35pm Moneycheck 2.00 Ruscoe on Five 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide 7.00 News Extra 7.35 Great Clubs of Europe. See Choice 8.00 The Monday Match Leeds v Blackburn Rovers. Plus news of the weekend's European football 10.00 Brian Hayes's Election Night 12.00 After Hours with Paul Hemott and Linda McDermott 2.00am Up All Night

TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy Warr 7.00 Paul Ross 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Peter Deeley 7.00 Moz Dee's Sportszone 10.00 James Whale 1.00am Mike Dickin

WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST News on the hour. 5.30am Europe Today 7.15 Streets of London 7.30 Omnibus 8.15 Off the Shelf 8.30 Vintage Chart Show 9.10 Pause for Thought 9.15 International Question Time 10.05 Business 10.15 What's That You're Eating 10.30 BBC English 10.45 Sport 11.30 Omnibus 12.30pm Jazz Expo 1.05 Business 1.15 Britain Today 1.30 Seven Days 1.45 Sport 3.05 Outlook 3.30 My Generation 4.05 Sport 4.15 On Your Behalf 4.30 Tommy Vance 5.30 Business 5.45 Britain Today 6.15 The World Today 6.30 Seven Days 6.45 Sport 7.30 Counterpoint 8.01 Outlook 8.25 Pause for Thought 8.30 Multitrack 10.05 Business 10.15 Britain Today 10.30 Reports from the Silk Road 11.30 World Today 11.45 Sport 12.05am Outlook 12.30 Multitrack 1.30 A Cry in the Dark 1.45 Britain Today 2.30 Seven Days 2.45 Live from the Archive 3.30 On Screen 4.05 Business 4.15 Sport 4.30 Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths 7.00 Mike Read 10.00 Henry Kelly 1.00pm Concerto. Dame Ethyl Smyth (Concerto for Violin, Horn and Orchestra); Litolff (Concerto Sinfonique No 2 in B minor Op 22) 3.00 Jamie Crick 7.00 Newsnight 7.30 Sonata Brahms (Clarinet Sonata in E flat Op 120 No 2) 8.00 Evening Concert Schubert (Marches No 1 in D and No 2 in G); Mozart (String Quintet No 1 in B flat); Beethovan (Quintet for Piano and Winds in E flat Op 16); Schubert (Death and the Maiden) 10.00 Michael Mappin 2.00am Concerto (r)

VIRGIN RADIO

6.30am Russ 'n' Jono 10.00 Graham Dene 1.00pm Jeremy Clark 4.00 Nicky Horne 6.00 Paul Coyte (FM) / Robin Banks (AM) 10.00 Mark Forrest 2.00am Randal Lee Rose

RADIO 3

6.00am **On Air,** with Andrew McGregor. Includes C.P.E. Bach (Harpsichord Concerto in D, W16); Strauss (Symphonic Fantasy Die Frau ohne Schatten); Tchaikovsky (Pezzo Capriccioso in B minor, Op 62); Sibelius (Symphony No 7)
9.00 **Morning Collection,** with Penny Gore. Includes Weber, orch Berlioz (Invitation to the Dance); Haydn (Piano Trio in G, HXV 32); Loewe (Die Wandelnde Glocke; Gottes Ist der Orient); Debussy (Suite Bergamasque)
10.00 **Musical Encounters,** with Piers Burton-Page. Includes Mozart (Serenade in D, K239); Brahms (Two Motets, Op 29); Reger (Concerto in the Olden Style, Op 123); Bach (Italian Concerto in F, BWV971); Janacek (Violin Sonata); Haydn (Symphony No 48 in C, Maria Theresia)
12.00 **Composer of the Week: Miklos Rozsa.** Introduced by Roderic Dunnett
1.00pm **News; Rites of Spring.** BBC Lunchtime Concert live from St John's Smith Square, London BBC Singers, BBC Symphony Orchestra, under Alexander Titov. Stravinsky (Concerto in E flat. Dumbarton Oaks; Canticum Sacrum; Danses Concertantes)
2.00 **Visitors to the Proms.** Alexander Toradze, piano, Rotterdam Philharmonic, under Valery Gergiev. Debussy (The Martyrdom of St Sebastian, excerpts); Prokofiev (Piano Concerto No 2); Stravinsky (The Firebird) (r)
3.45 **Everything but the Crazyhouse.** See Choice
4.15 **The Praetorius Family.** John Scott performs a programme of organ music by members of this dynasty. Includes Hieronymous Praetorius (Magnificat Sexti Toni; Vexilla Regis); Jacob Praetorius (Praeambulum ex F; Vater Unser); Michael Praetorius (Ein Feste Burg)
5.00 **Music Machine: Junk Week.** Luke Cresswell meets musicians who invent and make their own instruments (r)
5.15 **In Tune,** with Chris de Souza. Includes Balakirev (The Spinner); Beethoven (Variations on an Original Theme in C minor, WoO 80); Liszt (Piano Concerto in E flat)
7.30 **Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment.** Anthony Halstead conducts the wind soloists in a concert at St George's, Brandon Hill, Bristol. Mozart (Serenade in E flat, K375); 8.00 History and Heritage, with the historian Raphael Samuel (r) 8.20 Concert, part 2. Mozart (Serenade in B flat for 13 Wind Instruments, K361)
9.20 **The Undertaking.** The first of five programmes in which the American poet Thomas Lynch talks about his work as an undertaker in a small town in Michigan
9.35 **No Joke.** A selection of 20th-century works for the viola. With the BBC Symphony Orchestra, under Andrew Davis. Includes Bridge (Allegro Appassionato); Hindemith (Trauermusik)
10.00 **Voices.** The first of two programmes in which the Welsh tenor Dennis O'Neill performs songs by Vincenzo Bellini. Accompanied by the pianist Ingrid Surgenor
10.45 **Mixing It.** Mark Russell and Robert Sandall introduce highlights from the second of this year's LMC/New Aura concerts at the Purcell Room in London. From Scotland Richard Youngs and Brian Lavelle play lo-fi drones and loops; from New York and Tokyo come the power trio Death Ambient
11.30 **Composer of the Week: Amy Beach** (r)
12.30am **Jazz Notes,** with Digby Fairweather. Includes a look at the work of the arranger Gary McFarland
1.00 **Through the Night,** with Donald Macleod

RADIO 4

5.55am **Shipping Forecast (LW)** 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today, including Sports News and Thought for the Day 8.58 Weather
9.00 **News** 9.05 **Start the Week,** with *Times* columnist Melvyn Bragg and guests
10.00 **News; The Lipman Test (FM).** The last in the series which takes a look at the British at Play
10.00 **Daily Service (LW)**
10.15 **On This Day (LW)**
10.30 **Woman's Hour,** with Jenni Murray
11.30 **Money Box Live.** Vincent Duggleby takes listeners' calls on financial matters
12.00 **News; You and Yours.** Consumer news and current affairs with Mark Whittaker
12.25pm **Brain of Britain.** A new series of the nationwide general knowledge quiz chaired by Robert Robinson. Round one: London and the Home Counties 12.55 Weather
1.00 **The World at One,** with Nick Clarke
1.40 **The Archers** (r) 1.55 Shipping Forecast
2.00 **News; Rocco Don't Eat Greens,** by Nick Pullen. A comedy about a man who shares his mind with an invented character called Johnny Rocco. Starring Bill Wallis and Richard Pearce (r)
3.00 **The Afternoon Shift.** Lively debate with Laurie Taylor and guests
4.00 **News** 4.05 **Kaleidoscope** Lynne Walker looks behind the scenes at the London Coliseum as the ENO considers moving. Plus the critic Michael Billington reports on how it feels to be a director of a play by Harold Pinter
4.45 **Short Story: The Bends.** Written by *Times* literary editor Erica Wagner and read by Saira Todd. The story of a young American who attracts the attention of a thatcher (r)
5.00 PM, with Chris Lowe and Charlie Lee-Potter 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather
6.00 **Six O'Clock News**
6.30 **The News Quiz.** The topical comedy show with chairman Simon Hoggart and panellists Jeremy Hardy, Andy Kershaw and *Times* columnists John Diamond and Alan Coren (r)
7.00 **News** 7.05 **The Archers**
7.20 **The Food Programme,** with Derek Cooper (r)
7.45 **The Monday Play: Death of an Unimportant Pope,** by Wally K. Daly. Was Pope John Paul I murdered and if so, who would it have benefited? With Geoffrey Whitehead, Keith Drinkel, Bob Sherman and Sean Baker
9.15 **Bottoms, Beaks, Bellies and Feet.** A four-part celebration of our bodily extremities. With Caroline Sarll (r)
9.30 **Kaleidoscope** (r) 9.59 Weather
10.00 **The World Tonight,** with Isabel Hilton
10.45 **Book at Bedtime: The Go-Between.** L.P. Hartley's classic story of deception and the destruction of childhood innocence as a schoolboy is forced to deliver love letters. Read by John Rowe (1/10) (r)
11.00 **The Living World.** Lionel Kelleway visits the muddy Exe estuary to join the oystercatchers and avocets (5/6) (r)
11.30 **Colvil and Soames.** Christopher Lee's story of two intelligence officers investigating the suspicious death of an elderly priest. With Amanda Redman, Dudley Sutton and Christopher Benjamin (2/6) (r)
12.00 **News** incl 12.27am approx Weather
12.30am **Late Book: Going to Meet the Man,** by James Baldwin. Read by Paul Winfield (1/2) (r)
12.48 **Shipping Forecast** 1.00 **As World Service**

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.8; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

Blair facts of a Major welcome

THE newly launched *Real Business* magazine this month includes a letter from John Major, welcoming the publication. On Downing Street headed notepaper, the Prime Minister writes: "I am delighted to welcome the publication of Real Business. Small and medium-sized enterprises are the bedrock of the economy." Surprisingly, I can't find a similar missive from Tony Blair in the glossy. Maybe his invitation to comment, delivered from Caspian Publishing's office in Millbank Tower to Labour's war room on the floor below, was lost along the way.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

EMPLOYEES at the BBC are bracing themselves for a dressing down. Helen Bowden, the recently appointed head of BBC business output, will deliver her gameplan tomorrow. Rumour is that the Business Breakfast desk is just not big enough for both Sarah Coburn and Paul Burden.

Marathon man

AN UPDATE on the saga at Commercial Union, where two directors almost came to blows trying to secure a place on the firm's yacht sailing in the BT Global Challenge. Ian Reynolds, managing director of CU Life, came up trumps for the "Directors' Leg" from Wellington to Sydney. Cees Schrauwers, managing director of CU Non-Life, will not to be outdone. He is running in the London Marathon.

Cabinet continuity

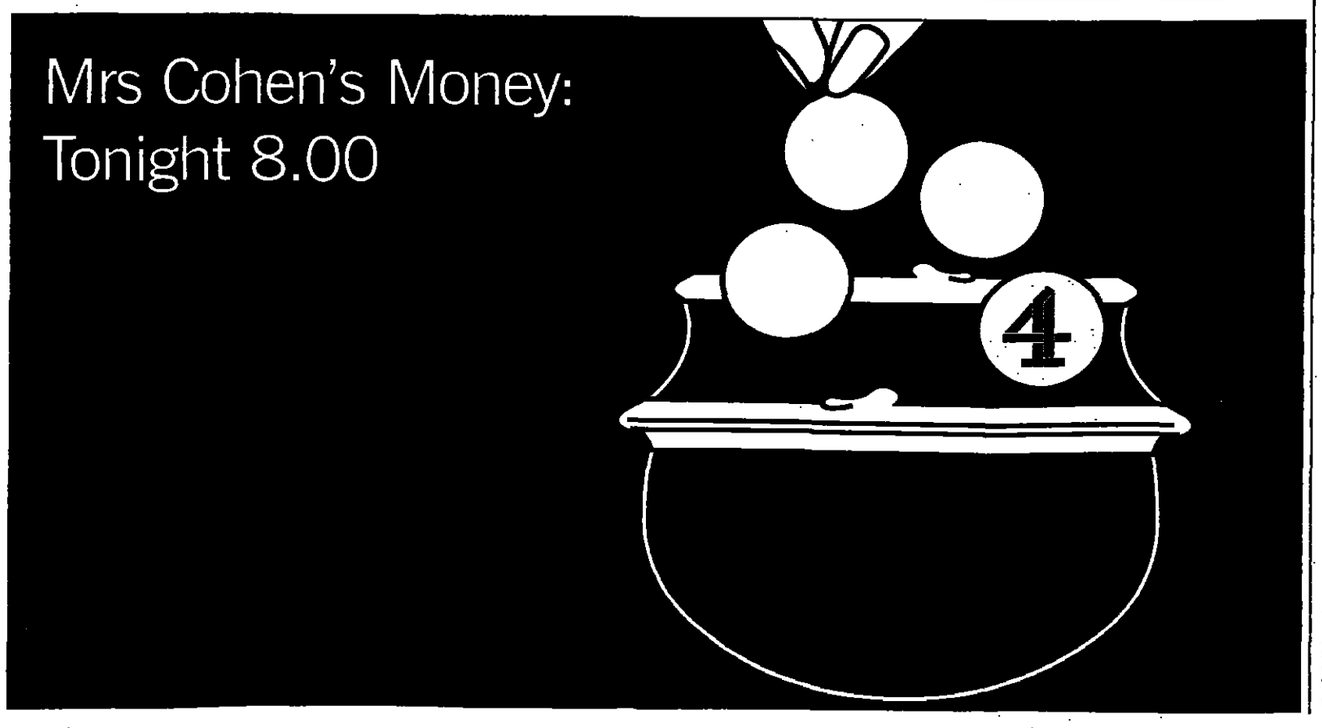
WHATEVER the outcome of the election, I am assured that Humphrey, the Cabinet cat, will be in the safest of hands. David Simpson, chief executive of Petplan, is still recovering from the last time the moggy went astray. "The Cabinet cat has been insured by us for many a year. We were very pleased when he was recovered, otherwise we would have had a major claim."

Fax figures

FIGHTS over the office fax machine are as regular as the rush for the door at the end of the day. A hefty 76 per cent of employees admit to losing their temper with colleagues who hog office equipment, according to a survey by Gestetner, the distributor of office automation products. A shameless 7 per cent admit to never refilling the photocopier after using the last sheet of paper. More than half admit to having the nightmare of printing a huge mailing and then discovering a spelling mistake. Six in ten admit to having printed countless copies instead of one.

THE Barclay Brothers are keeping the Palm Court at Piccadilly's Ritz Hotel open to catch the general election result. Die hard politicos will be charged £35 a head for a buffet. Two huge screens will be tuned to BBC.

MORAG PRESTON



Are you sitting comfortably? Then I'll begin

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

How long has it been since we had a drama that hinged on a commode? A while, I'll warrant. And not just any commode, this was a commode meticulously and consistently shorn of its defining article . . . well, most of it anyway. This was t'commode.

"Did you put her on t'commode?" asked somebody important at Skelthwaite Medical Centre, as episode one of **Where the Heart Is** (ITV) reached a climax that I for one had not been expecting. "Aye, I put her on t'commode," said District Nurse Peggy Snow, played by Pam Ferris, who already caused a stir by wearing a track suit. But I'm straying; back to t'commode.

"Did Mrs Hutton ask to be put on t'commode?" demanded important person. Now, this was unlikely as Mrs Hutton was dying a horrible death at the time and t'commode was probably the last thing on her mind. At least I hope it was — too awful to think that her very last thought on earth was "I must go to t'commode". Her husband, however, did have an inkling that this might be an old district nurse trick to hasten the end of the terminally ill. "Why are you putting her on t'commode?" There was a brief but fatal pause (it's all right, there was a brief but heavily pregnant pause just seconds later, life goes on you know). T'commode had done t'trick.

Somewhere, I suspect, there is already a tape of out-takes from this very northern drama, with the likes of Ferris and her co-star Sarah Lancashire apologising to each other in their best theatrical tones: "Sorry darling, afraid I said *the*. Can we go again?" Aye, 'appen we can.

Accents apart, the series is a fairly cynical amalgam of others that have gone before — the storylines of *Peak Practice*, the scenery of *All Creatures Great and Small* and the uniforms and sensible shoes of *The District Nurse*. But Ferris is as good as ever (Lancashire spent most of last night's episode giving birth, so it was difficult to judge her contribution), is ably assisted by Tony Haygarth as her husband; and if the supporting performances are up to the standard set by Andrew Readman ("I know what you did, you put my mother on t'commode") then it could be around for a lot longer than six episodes.

Another triumph of drama over dialogue was **The Ice House** (BBC1, Saturday and Sunday). Hugely distinguished cast, hugely expensive-looking production values but every now then a line so awful you couldn't believe anybody had actually uttered it. "You know what it reminds me of?" mused the charmless Chief Inspector Walsh (Corin Redgrave working hard, but still sounding very like Chief Inspector Wexford) as he surveyed the decomposed body. "The bones on a breast of lamb . . . after my wife has skimmed the meat off . . . with a sharp knife."

But I think my favourite was "walk through the main house until you reach the West wing" a line which gloriously celebrated the fact that while country houses such as Streech Grange may be chock full of lesbians these days, some things in murder mysteries never change. Like the pub falling silent when somebody new walks in. Honestly it did, twice.

What saved it from being total hokum (never can so many policeman have raked so many small patches of lawn for so long) was the quality of the acting and the unlikely but engaging attraction between Anne Cattrell (Kitty Aldridge) and DS McLoughlin (Daniel Craig). Cattrell turned out only to be pretending to be a lesbian, which left me a little confused as to what she was doing at the Grange in the first place, but was terribly convenient if you were a newly separated detective sergeant who fancied her.

Last night's denouement was, quite properly, in the drawing room, with all manner of potential suspects arriving, as tradition dictates, through the French windows. Once the rather complex plot had been explained to them all, that just left a neat little twist in the wine cellar and a handful of loose ends. Such as, why did nobody fancy Frances Barber?

Saturday night saw Gaby Roslin do just about enough to rescue her career with **Whatever You Want** (BBC1). It was deeply unambitious, totally harmless and a modest amount of fun. Another way of putting it would be *Jim'll Fix It* but without the bathos . . . most of it, anyway.

Drawing on her considerable reserves of sincerity, enthusiasm and niceness, Roslin fixed it for a grown-up to go swimming with dolphins, an unsuccessful under-11s football team to go training with Bobby Robson in Barcelona (I hope that she also fixed it for Robson to keep his job long enough) and for an excited teenager to step out with teen heart-throb, Sean McGuire. But the best part — or certainly the spookiest part — was the opening contest between three forthright girls who desperately wanted to be famous. It was won by a girl who could have been Roslin's twin sister. Scary, huh?

Finally, **Family Money** (Channel 4) came to a bizarre end, hampered — as it was from the start — by two things. First was the channel's blinkered decision to put it out against established audience-pullers on both ITV and BBC1 and second was a curious lack of narrative tension. There were all these wonderful characters (I shall miss Delia and Ela particularly), all these wonderful actors giving splendid performances, but almost no story (or certainly none interesting enough) to take us from one week to the next. The house story petered out, the murder story petered out and eventually Fran (Claire Bloom) petered off to Islamabad. As I say, bizarre.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (11533)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (16991)
9.00 Breakfast News Extra (T) (8186755)
9.20 Style Challenge (3607620)
9.45 Kilroy (T) (2242668)
10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (51991)
11.00 News (T) and weather (4858303)
11.05 The Really Useful Show (T) (9228194)
11.35 Change That (6659668)
12.00 News (T) and weather (4452571)
12.05pm Call My Bluff (5004200)
12.35 Good Living Presented by Jane Asher (9835571)
1.00 News (T) and weather (26378)
1.30 Regional News (50472755)
1.45 The Weather Show (39963262)
1.50 Neighbours (T) (22890910)
2.15 Quincy (3905823)
3.00 Through the Keyhole New series with David Frost (2129)
3.30 Playdays (r) (6140281) **3.50** The New Yogi Bear Show (6877939) **3.55** Bodger and Badger (r) (6380858) **4.10** Casper. New series (8230571) **4.35** 50/50 New game show for two teams of 50 from schools across the country (T) (7562571) **5.00** Newsround (T) (5213620) **5.10** Blue Peter (T) (9835561)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (695755)
6.00 News (T) and weather (910)
6.30 Regional news magazines (T) (262)
7.00 Auntie's TV Favourites New series. Steve Wright introduces features on some of the BBC's most popular programmes and celebrities (T) (4910)
7.30 Here and Now A police task force set up to tackle the growing multimillion-pound trade in counterfeit luxury goods. John Walters searches for Britain's champion quiz show contestant. (T) (674)
8.00 EastEnders Tony puts the past behind him and makes a fresh start at the Walford Gazette (T) (3858)
8.30 Panorama: The Leader Interview In the first of four live election programmes, the Labour Party leader Tony Blair is interviewed by David Dimbleby (T) (9465)
9.00 News (T) regional news and weather (1587)
10.00 Patriot Games (1992) with Harrison Ford, Sean Bean, Anne Archer and Patrick Bergin. A former CIA agent on holiday in Britain foils an IRA attack on a member of the Royal Family, killing one of the terrorists in the process, and soon finds himself caught in a deadly game of cat-and-mouse. Directed by Phillip Noyce (T) (366842)
11.50 Film 97 with Barry Norman Includes reviews of *The People vs Larry Flynt*, *Fever Pitch*, based on Nick Hornby's book, and *Turbulence* Woody Allen talks about his first musical, *Everyone Says I Love You* (T) (731991)
12.20am They Call Me Mister Tibbs! (1970) Sidney Poitier reprises his *In the Heat of the Night* role as Detective Virgil Tibbs, this time investigating the murder of a prostitute and trying to clear a close friend of the crime. Directed by Gordon Douglas (T) (195934)
2.05 Weather (3366885)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes
The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode™ numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+™ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. Videoplus+ (™), Pluscode (™) and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

BBC2

6.00am Learning to Learn (2482281) **6.25** Open University. Science Skills (2574216) **6.50** A School for Our Times? (2726213) **7.15** See Hear Breakfast News (T) (8286194) **7.30** Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (r) (4377649) **7.55** Blue Peter (r) (T) (5862823) **8.20** Secret Life of Toys (r) (3354842) **8.35** The Raccoons (r) (9080281) **9.00** Cartoon (2213587) **9.10** Enchanted Tales (r) (8815939) **10.00** Teletubbies (56741) **10.30** The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles (T) (1389910) **11.15** Alas Smith and Jones (r) (3178246) **12.05pm** The Flintstones (r) (9545485) **12.30** Working Lunch (69705) **1.00** Secret Life of Toys (r) (12544718) **1.15** Mr Zoggs Clothes (r) (22618668)
1.25 The Letter (1940, b/w) with Bette Davis, Herbert Marshall and James Stephenson. A woman shoots an alleged intruder on her husband's rubber plantation, but incriminating evidence soon emerges that suggests it may in fact have been a cold-blooded murder. Directed by William Wyler (74489674)
3.00 News (T) (7756668) **3.05** The Natural World: Argentina (r) (T) (9059303) **3.55** News (T) **4.00** Blockbusters (6957129) **4.25** Ready, Steady, Cook (6950216) **4.55** Esther. The future of marriage (9953649) **5.30** Today's the Day (939)
6.00 The Simpsons (T) (685804)
6.25 Space Precinct (r) (T) (719397)
7.10 Electric Circus With the actor Mark Hamill (399246)
7.30 The Sci Files How the ambitious Human Genome Project to map every gene in the world has fallen foul of commercial pressures (216)
7.58 Video Nation Election Shorts (499649)
8.00 Top Gear Motorsport The Portuguese leg of the World Rally Championship (T) (1200)
8.30 The Antiques Show (1/8) Francine Stock visits everything from car boot sales to major London auctions, while dealer David Dickinson provides invaluable tips on snapping up bargains (T) (7007)
9.00 The Outer Limits Sci-fi drama (T) (829484)



Jason Hughes, Amita Dhiri (9.45pm)

9.45 This Life Miles advertises in a lonely hearts column (T) (911945)
10.30 Newsnight (T) (47194)
11.30 The Kingdom (3/5) Offbeat hospital drama. In Danish with English subtitles (712216)
12.25am Weather (3465427)
12.30-6.00 The Learning Zone Portuguese Voyages of Discovery (60175) **1.00** Crossing the Border (34311) **1.30** Modern Art: Rodin (80088) **2.00** Language Season (27137) **4.00** Italia 2000 (93137) **4.30** Royal Institute Discourse(22576) **5.00** RCN Nursing Update (21953)

HTV

6.00am GMTV (6856216)
9.25 Chain Letters (T) (3622939)
9.55 Regional News (T) (2744026)
10.00 The Time, the Place (56787)
10.30 This Morning (T) (61277587)
12.20pm Regional News (T) (4458755)
12.30 News (T) (9838668)
12.55 Special Report Three teenagers recount their personal battles against cancer (9919587)
1.25 Home and Away (T) (64208262) **1.50** Murder, She Wrote (r) (1475552) **2.40** Savannah (r) (9242262)
3.20 News (T) (7836858)
3.25 Regional News (T) (7835129)
3.30 Tots TV (r) (6209939) **3.40** Caribou Kitchen (9850194) **3.50** Donald Duck (6155113) **4.10** Sooty's Amazing Adventures (9118736) **4.20** Snap (T) (6875571) **4.50** The Big Bang. New series, more magic and things to make (T) (1739620)
5.10 Sorted Discussion programme aimed at teenagers (1695939)
5.40 News (T) and weather (838533)
6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (785858)
6.25 HTV Weather (598939)
6.30 HTV News (T) (858)
7.00 Wish You Were Here? Ann Bryson cruises around the Far East; Judith Chalmers visits Nerja in Spain, a quiet spot on the Costa del Sol; and Julian Ballantyne tries out an activity holiday in Perthshire (T) (6378)
7.30 Coronation Street Will Derek make it to Mavis's birthday party? (T) (84
8.00 World in Action An investigation of the pensions industry (T) (5026)



Eddie Marsan as Vincent (8.30pm)

8.30 Kavanagh QC: The Ties that Bind Kavanagh fights on behalf of a young man brutally killed, in a rare private prosecution for murder. With John Thaw and Eddie Marsan (T) (82692)
10.00 News (T) and weather (78668)
10.30 Regional News (T) (331755)
10.40 The West Story Families speak about the long-term effects of bullying (842910)
11.10 Who's Harry Crumb (1989) with John Candy, Jeffrey Jones and Annie Potts. An incompetent detective tries to track down a kidnapper. Directed by Paul Flaherty (960736)
12.35am Football Extra (3239601)
1.25 Mainly Men (7864779)
1.55 Planet Rock Profiles (3226175)
2.25 Club Nation (r) (5282717)
3.25 God's Gift (r) (4723040)
4.20 Sound Bites (94843798)
4.30 World in Action (r) (T) (42330)
5.00 Coronation Street (r) (T) (11972)
5.30 News (88069)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (9919587)
1.50 Blue Heelers (2473397)
2.50-3.20 High Road (5184858)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (1695939)
6.25-7.00 Central News (131084)
10.40 Film: Psycho IV: The Beginning (16706216)
12.30am Sound Bites (5943750)
12.40 Football Extra (4372175)
1.25 Stand and Deliver (1702048)
2.25 Film: The Trap (776205)
4.25 Central Jobfinder '97 (4298866)
5.20 Asian Eye (2541779)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.55 Home and Away (2133910)
1.20-1.50 High Road (70805910)
2.45 Cheap and Cheerful (824649)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (1695939)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (19200)
10.40 A Tale of Three Farms (842910)
11.10 Special Report (796668)
11.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (632026)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:
12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (9919587)
1.50 Down by the River (24634692)
2.20-3.20 Blue Heelers (1312736)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (1695939)
6.00 Meridian Tonight (378)
6.30-7.00 Country Ways (858)
10.30 Meridian News and Weather (322007)
10.45 Seven Days — an Election Special (441945)
11.15 The Pier (929741)
11.45 Prisoner: Cell Block H (899484)
5.00am Freescreen (11972)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except:
12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (9919587)
1.50 Blue Heelers (2473397)
2.50-3.20 Jungle on Your Doorstep (5184858)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (1695939)
6.25-7.00 Anglia News (131084)
10.30 Anglia News and Weather (322007)
10.45 Film: Gregory's Girl (16705587)

S4C

Starts: 6.00am Sesame Street (37571) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (12129) **9.00 Bewitched** (51945) **9.30 Sister Sister** (8831945) **9.55 Hangin' with Mr Cooper** (7289533) **10.20 The Crystal Maze** (7586804) **11.20 Earthworm Jim** (4763649) **11.45 The Pink Panther** (6288552) **12.00 Right to Reply** (68281) **12.30pm Montel Williams** (95823) **1.00 Slot Meithrin** (69293246) **1.15 Smot y Ci** (78748151) **1.30 Film: Move Over Darling** (56201910) **3.25 Fresh Pop** (7753571) **3.30 Collectors' Lot** (736) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (571) **4.30 The Lost Gardens of Heligan** (755) **5.00 5 Pump** (5319858) **5.10 Ffeil** (5235842) **5.20 Gogs** (8056649) **5.30 Countdown** (197) **6.00 Newyddion** (309587) **6.05 Heno** (690736) **6.35 Bob Yn Ddau** (678129) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (700007) **7.25 Y Jocars** (739571) **8.00 Clwb Garddio** (3668) **8.30 Newyddion** (8303) **9.00 Etholiad 97** (1397) **10.00 Brookside** (69910) **10.30 Sgorio** (944113) **11.10 Armstrong and Miller** (994295) **11.55-1.25am Midnight Special** (4440259)

CHANNEL 4

6.00am Sesame Street (37571) **7.00** The Big Breakfast (12129) **9.00** Bewitched (51945) **9.30** Sister Sister (r) (8831945) **9.55** Hangin' with Mr Cooper (r) (T) (7289533) **10.20** The Crystal Maze (r) (7586804) **11.20** Earthworm Jim (r) (4763649) **11.45** The Pink Panther (r) (6288552)
12.00 Right to Reply (r) (68281)
12.30pm Light Lunch Chat, cookery and audience participation, with Mel Giedroyc, Sue Perkins and guests (98649)
1.30 Pharmacist (1933, b/w) A W.C Fields short (22889804)
1.50 The River's Edge (1957) with Ray Milland, Anthony Quinn and Debra Paget. A chase thriller about a thief forcing a border guard and his wife to lead him over the mountains to Mexico directed by Allan Dwan (T) (42955668)
3.30 Collectors' Lot. From a 16th-century hall in East Anglia (T) (736) **4.00** Fifteen-to-One (T) (571) **4.30** Countdown (T) (755) **5.00** Montel Williams (T) (7484) **5.30** Pet Rescue (r) (T) (197)
6.00 The Cosby Show (T) (620)
6.30 Hollyoaks Teen soap (T) (200)
7.00 Channel 4 News (T) (744378)
7.50 Thatcher's Children (T) (409026)
8.00 Mrs Cohen's Money: Investment A new six-part series looking at the world of personal finance (T) (3668)
8.30 Brookside The first of this week's five episodes of the Merseyside soap. Max and Susannah face a tragedy that will change their lives forever (T) (8303)



Dr Aneez Esmail (9.00pm)

9.00 The Surgery A fly-on-the-wall documentary series about three Manchester GPs (1/3) (T) (1397)
10.00 Dark Skies Offbeat science fiction drama series (T) (4484)
11.00 Armstrong and Miller Wacky comedy sketches from Alexander Armstrong and Ben Miller (997465)
11.45 Plasticine People: Sales Pitch Animation (r) (536533)
11.55 Midnight Special New discussion series chaired by Vincent Hanna (440259)
1.25am Triumph of the Nerds (1/3) (r) (T) (7007430)
2.25 Forever, Lulu (1987) with Hanna Schygulla, Deborah Harry and Alec Baldwin. The story of an immigrant in America who loses control and goes on a rampage in New York. Directed by Amos Kolleck (749311)
4.00 Grampian Sheepdog Trials (r) (19861330)
4.25 From Beirut to Bosnia with Robert Fisk (1/3) (r) (4243330)
5.25-6.00 Backdate (r) (T) (7123953)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 am 5 News Early (7915736)
7.30 Havakazoo (2035194)
8.00 Adventures of the Bush Patrol (2653823)
8.30 Wideworld Stephen Cole presents the first in a series exploring where the power really lies within the Government of the United States (2652194)
9.00 Espresso Consumer affairs magazine (2566668)
10.00 Exclusive (r)
10.30 Attractions (r) (2745858)
11.00 Leeza Chat show (9892842)
11.50 Double Espresso (45539587)
12.00 The Bold and the Beautiful A soap set in Los Angeles (T) (2656910)
12.30pm Family Affairs (r) (T) (9547026)
1.00 5 News Update (92560262)
1.05 Sunset Beach (T) (6662736)
2.00 5's Company. Guests, competitions, comedy and music (3273561)
3.30 The Wackiest Ship in the Army (1960) with Jack Lemmon and Ricky Nelson. A comedy about the incompetent crew of a gunship providing an escort through Japanese-held Pacific waters. Directed by Richard Murphy (4540465)
5.20 5's Company: Late Extra (14420571)
5.30 100 Per Cent (1682129)
6.00 Whittle Quiz show with audience participation (T) (1509842)
6.30 Family Affairs The Hart children take advantage of their parents' absence. Jamie gets a shock when he walks in on his grandfather (T) (1590194)
7.00 Exclusive Showbiz magazine (1417378)
7.30 Serengeti Safari: The Long-Legged Marching Eagle The secretary bird, a long-legged bird of prey with a penchant for stamping on poisonous snakes (T) (1596378)
8.00 Hot Property Series about the housing market. A gay couple view three Bristol properties (T) (1426026)
8.30 5 News with Kirsty Young and Rob Butler (1405533)



Christopher Lambert stars (9.00pm)

9.00 Highlander (1986) with Christopher Lambert, Sean Connery and Roxanne Hart. A swashbuckling fantasy in which immortals continue to battle as they are transported through different ages. Directed by Russell Mulcahy (1013465)
11.00 The Jack Docherty Show Chat and comedy. The guests are Eric Hall and John Thompson (7345197)
11.40 We Know Where You Live Irreverent comedy sketches (2707200)
12.10am Live and Dangerous Sports magazine. Includes action from the Winter X Games at **2.00** (39423971)
4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (6722601)
5.30-6.00 100 Per Cent (r) (5600682)

SATELLITE AND CABLE

● **For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday**

SKY 1

6.00am Morning Glory (761938) **9.00** Regis and Kathie Lee (81804) **10.00** Another World (73200) **11.00** Days of Our Lives (60736) **12.00** The Oprah Winfrey Show (36194) **1.00pm** Geraldo (45842) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (42842) **3.00** Jenny Jones (52668) **4.00** Oprah with the Stars (37303) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (8755) **6.00** Real TV (7945) **6.30** Married — with Children (5397) **7.00** The Simpsons (9484) **7.30** M*A*S*H (4281) **8.00** Springhill (88571) **10.00** Nash Bridges (74378) **11.00** Selina Scott (32804) **11.30** Star Trek: The Next Generation (82939) **12.30am** LAPD (84779) **1.00** Hit Mix Long Play (8569300)

SKY 2

7.00am Superboy (4747397) **7.30** Superboy (3490194) **8.00** Star Trek: Voyager (1862910) **9.00** Poltergeist: The Legacy (1955674) **10.00** The Outer Limits (1852533) **11.00** Late Show with David Letterman (8377755) **12.00** Hit Mix Long Play (9435408)

SKY NEWS

Worldwide news coverage, with bulletins on the hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week

SKY MOVIES

6.00am Mr Music (1950) (64718) **8.00 Fate is the Hunter** (1964) (341939) **10.30 Bigger Than Life** (1956) (86842) **12.30pm Dallas: The Early Years** (1986) (318151) **3.00 Ghost of a Chance** (1987) (86755) **5.00 Ice Castles** (1978) (37638) **7.00 All She Ever Wanted** (1996) (70113) **9.00 Terminal Velocity** (1994) (71036692) **11.45 Once a Thief** (1991) (420378) **12.35am James Clavell's Tai-Pan** (1986) (72789750) **2.40 Fate is the Hunter** (1964) (904311) **4.20 Bigger Than Life** (1956) (308798)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am The Joy of Living (1938) (86175804) **7.35 Joe at the Kingdom of the Bees** (1972) (8082904) **8.40 Stella** (1950) (2943842) **10.10 The Errand Boy** (1961) (49113129) **12.00 One Cooks, the Other Doesn't** (1983) (271858) **1.50pm Only When I Larf** (1968) (13642610) **3.35 The Errand Boy** (1961) (733484) **5.10 A View to a Kill** (1985) (56856200) **7.30 El Features: Absolute Power** (7991) **8.00 A Brother's Promise: The Dan Jansen Story** (1996) (71281) **10.00 Wes Craven's New Nightmare** (1994) (6298823) **11.55 Breach of Conduct** (1994) (5309910) **1.30am Keys** (1994) (8533863) **3.05 OC and Stiggs** (1984) (790205) **4.55 Sign of Four** (1983) (7904311)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

6.00am Cast a Giant Shadow (1966) (53617007) **8.20 The Golden Child** (1986) (26224736) **10.00 Rollerball** (1975) (64894281) **12.10pm Can't Stop the Music** (1980) (32074088) **2.15 And Now for Something Completely Different** (1972) (31425114) **3.45-5.30 Love is a Many Splendoured Thing** (1955) (34556601)

TNT

9.00pm Sweet Bird of Youth (1962) (69831194) **11.00 The Asphalt Jungle** (1950) (95318200) **12.55am Each Dawn I Die** (1939) (90175296) **2.25-5.00 Sweet Bird of Youth** (1962) (15314021)

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am World Sport Special (74115) **7.30** Beach Volleyball (56484) **8.30** Racing News (23755) **9.00** World of Speed and Beauty (14007) **9.30** Aerobics Oz Style (50397) **10.00** Rugby League (30533) **12.00** Aerobics Oz Style (27571) **12.30pm** Football: Coca-Cola Cup Final (85552) **2.00** Futbol Mundial (6552) **2.30** World Motor Sport (94858) **4.00** Rugby Union Wasps v Bath (2303) **6.00** Sports Centre (42621) **6.30** Tartan Extra (8842) **7.00** Leeds United v Blackburn Rovers — Live (1267533) **10.30** Sports Centre (42020) **11.00** Tartan Extra (87378) **11.30** High 5 (85571) **12.00** Leeds United v Blackburn Rovers (99796) **2.00am-2.30** Sports Centre (86359)

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00 High Five (93619113) **12.30pm** US Golf: Freeport McDermott Classic (48933823) **2.30** World Sport Special (42531910) **3.00** International Cricket — Live (48967561) **10.00** High Five (93610842) **10.30-11.30** Sports Unlimited

EUROSPORT

7.30am Rally Raid (17668) **8.00** Cycling (19718) **9.00** Speed Skating (68804) **11.00** Rally Raid (80468) **11.30** Football (71303) **12.30pm** Motorcycling (49281) **1.00** Karting (44736) **2.00** IndyCar (91465) **3.30** Stock-Car Racing (96936) **5.00** Football (1007) **6.00** Boxing (57200) **7.00** Speedworld (69378) **8.30** Sumo (82117) **9.30** Rally Raid (32945) **10.00** Football (20878) **11.00-12.30am** Snooker (14741)

UK GOLD

7.00am Tellystack (15800026) **7.35** Neighbours (52243803) **8.00** Crossroads (31596200) **8.25** EastEnders (65908426) **9.00** The Bill (28890002) **9.30** Don't Wait Up (87077232) **10.00** Never the Twain (42232736) **10.30** The Sullivans (7130754) **11.00** Casualty (88368465) **12.05pm** Crossroads (22054088) **12.30** Neighbours (56582959) **1.00** EastEnders (85779939) **1.35** The Dick Emery Show (1263638) **2.10** A Diddy Bit of Dodd (11968663) **2.20** Fairly Secret Army (84761113) **2.55** Allo 'Allo! (31882828) **3.30** The Bill (22028823) **4.00** All Creatures Great and Small (50736491) **5.00** Generation Game (30174842) **6.05** EastEnders (49882362) **6.40** Are You Being Served? (18931194) **7.20** Russ Abbot (59899101) **7.55** What a Carry On! (47552000) **8.30** 79 Park Avenue (83281129) **10.25** The Bill (35875871) **11.00** Spitting Image (50743781) **11.30** Dr Who: Omnibus (70893804) **2.10am** Shopping at Night (81447779)

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am The Krypton Factor (5702755) **6.30** Children's Ward (26412762) **7.00** Coronation Street (42543303) **7.30** Families (4160910) **8.00** Surprise, Surprise (49028233) **9.00** The Professionals (58843003) **10.00** The Krypton Factor (26858442) **10.30** Doctor in the House (58268911) **11.00** Within These Walls (42559858) **12.00** Classic Coronation Street (58425571) **12.30pm** Families (6692007) **1.00** Crown Court (42553674) **1.30** The Good Life Guide (66913776) **2.00** A Family at War (20665571) **3.00** Up Stairs, Downstairs (3351842) **4.00** Surprise, Surprise (33476491) **5.00** The Professionals (59063397) **6.00** Families (32852771) **6.30** Classic Coronation Street (45347769) **7.00** Surprise, Surprise (22285533) **8.00** Upstairs Downstairs (52922281) **9.00** Classic Coronation Street (33365533) **9.30** The Comedians (68655771) **10.00-11.00** The Professionals (2282804)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Big Garage (90952001) **6.15** Muppet Babies (78439911) **6.40** The Care Bears (14532216) **7.05** Mouse on a Motorcycle (6643858) **7.55** The Little Mermaid (11479439) **8.20** Aladdin (3032561) **8.45** Quack Pack (8571674) **9.10** Brand Spanking New Doug (38332858) **9.35** Mighty Duck (32759391) **10.00** Goof Troop (85754651) **10.25** Darkwing Ducks (65788804) **10.50** Timon and Pumbaa (34966026) **11.15** Bonkers (44764911) **11.45** The Little Mermaid (53818231) **12.10pm** Quack Attack (22104884) **12.40** Mouse Tracks (50200281) **1.10** Stick with Me Kid (11477378) **2.00 FILM: A Cry in the Wild** (70225562) **3.20** The Making of Jungle Book (66173033) **3.40** Brand Spanking New Doug (78427705) **4.05** Goof Troop (77285674) **4.30** Quack Pack (11378) **5.00** Aladdin (79775552) **5.20** Flash Forward (49411113) **5.45** Timon and Pumbaa (94393939) **6.00** Brand Spanking New Doug (55711) **6.30** Boy Meets World (68623) **7.00** Brotherly Love (3620) **7.30 FILM: Ernest Goes to Camp** (90910) **9.00** Bone Chillers (31113) **9.30-10.00** Life's Work (701296)

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Three Little Ghosts (18020067) **6.30** Inspector Gadget (73213003) **7.00** Samurai Pizza Cats (63689007) **7.30** Eagle Riders (65708421) **8.00** Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (97060007) **8.30** Masked Rider (8705378) **9.00** Big Bad Beetleborgs (88928858) **9.30** Power Rangers Zeo (76612362) **10.00** C Bear and Jamal (87188442) **11.00** Life with Louie (83585194) **11.30** Eek! Stravaganza (83598223) **12.00** Incredible Hulk (87091494) **12.30pm** Mortal Kombat (76723376) **1.00** Highlander (63673778) **1.30** Eagle Riders (76716491) **2.00** Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (47362181) **2.30** Masked Rider (35821293) **3.00** Big Bad Beetleborgs (48282216) **3.30** Power Rangers Zeo (35876744) **4.00** C Bear and Jamal (34932381) **4.30** Eek! Stravaganza (34994465) **5.00** Spiderman (47275533) **5.30** Goosebumps (35865945) **6.00-7.00** Sweet Valley High (35838568)

TCC

6.00am Road to Avonlea (40007) **7.00** Batman (89543) **7.30** Art Attack (27668) **8.00** Ed and Ted's Excellent Adventures (98668) **10.00** Romuald the Reindeer (91755) **10.30** Robinson Sucroe (45845) **11.00** Danger Mouse (24823) **11.30** Gravedale High (25552) **12.00** Oscar's Orchestra (68397) **12.30pm** Halfway Across the Galaxy and Turn Left (90939) **1.00** By the Way of the Stars (39084) **1.30** Black Beauty (82910) **2.00** The Girl from Tomorrow (2378) **2.30** Ocean Odyssey (1736) **3.00** Art Attack (4113) **3.30** Flash Gordon (9533) **4.00** Batman (9858) **4.30-5.00** The Big Dish (7552)

CARTOON NETWORK

Non-stop cartoons from **5.00am** to **9.00pm**. Includes Tom and Jerry, Popeye and The Flintstones

NICKELODEON

6.00am Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (41200) **6.30** Count Duckula (70848) **7.00** Captain Simian and the Space Monkeys (74197) **7.30** Tales from the Cryptkeeper (13942) **8.00** Bruno the Kid (22026) **8.30** Hey Arnold! (21397) **9.00** Rugrats (12649) **9.30** Rugrats (58939) **10.00** Aaahh! Real Monsters (87129) **10.30** Doug (82543) **11.00** Rocko's Modern Life (93939) **11.30** Bailey Kipper's Point of View (94668) **12.00** Kenan and Kel (25113) **12.30pm** The Secret World of Alex Mack (52755) **1.00** Sister Sister (24638) **1.30** Moesha (51026) **2.00** Round the Twist (4194) **2.30** The Adventures of Pete and Pete (7303) **3.00** Stickin' Around (6129) **3.30** Aaahh! Real Monsters (6620) **4.00** Rugrats (5755) **4.30** Rugrats (1939) **5.00** Rugrats (1674) **5.30** Rugrats (5991) **6.00** Press Gang (2804)

TROUBLE

12.00 Heartbreak High (7157084) **1.00pm** Madison (4185804) **1.30** Sweet Valley High (3757228) **2.00** Hangtime (3820262) **2.30** California Dreams (2398674) **3.00** Byker Grove (3649397) **3.30** Blast (2397991) **4.00** Sweet Valley High (2216026) **4.30** Hangtime (2205910) **5.00** Saved by the Bell (3644842) **5.30** California Dreams (2296262) **6.00** Byker Grove (2399303) **6.30** Madison (2217755) **7.00-8.00** Heartbreak High (9597200)

BRAVO

8.00pm The New Twilight Zone (3640026) **8.30** The New Twilight Zone (3629533) **9.00** The Burning Zone (9593484) **10.00** Tour of Duty (9596571) **11.00 FILM: Dangaio** (5183422) **1.00am** The Burning Zone (4383576) **2.00** Tour of Duty (9378885) **3.00 FILM: Dangaio** (49803591) **5.00** The New Twilight Zone (6993430) **5.30** The New Twilight Zone (8531683)

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Entertainment UK (8910) **7.30** Roseanne (2668) **8.00** Roseanne (7858) **8.30** Monty Python's Flying Circus (3465) **9.00** Cheers (79303) **9.30** Cybill (32991) **10.00** Fraser (26842) **10.30** It's Garry Shandling's Show (42002) **11.00** In Bed with Me Dinner (78620) **11.30** Nightstand (27705) **12.30am** Carnal Knowledge (98755) **1.30** Cybill (25798) **2.00** Entertainment UK (56601) **2.30** In Bed with Me Dinner (42408) **3.00** Fraser (99885) **3.30-4.00** It's Garry Shandling's Show (66068)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

8.00pm Moldiver (7778216) **8.30** The Twilight Zone (7684823) **9.00** Sightings (42791239) **10.00** Starman (42722216) **11.00** The Invaders (6816485) **12.00** The Incredible Hulk (3770601) **1.00am** The Twilight Zone (1861717) **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected (3568663) **2.00 FILM: Night of the Creeps** (9646779) **3.30-4.00** 100 Years of Horror (5662953)

HOME & LEISURE

9.00am The Joy of Painting (4689084) **9.30** Gardeners' Diary (8901256) **10.00** Stars and Gardens (4230378) **10.30** Our House (9930736) **11.00** The Painted House (50809399) **11.30** This Old House (5081668) **12.00** Yan Can Cook (9351088) **12.30pm** Graham Kerr (6907741) **1.00** Today's Gourmet (4198378) **1.30** Home Again (73572682) **2.00** Hometime (3633736) **2.30** Furniture to Go (2298620) **3.00** Two's Country Cooking (3645571) **3.30-4.00** This Old House (2200465)

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Fishing Adventures (2212200) **4.30** Roadshow (2218484) **5.00** Terra X (3720216) **5.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles (2209736) **6.00** Untamed Africa (5357002) **7.00** Beyond 2000 (3837552) **7.30** Disaster (2219113) **8.00** Animal Crackers (9586194) **9.00** Lonely Planet (9679858) **10.00** The Barefoot Bushman (9672945) **11.00** Wings (4108755) **12.00** Classic Wheels (2393476) **1.00am** Disaster (1086359) **1.30-2.00** Beyond 2000

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Ancient Mysteries (1758129) **5.00** School for Wives (7895939) **6.00** The War in the East (5196264) **7.00-8.00** Biography: Henry Ford (4273945)

CHALLENGE TV

Win with Prize Time twice an hour
5.05pm Blockbusters (8587561) **5.50** Family Fortunes (571736) **6.30** Catchphrase (567674) **7.05** Sale of the Century (538842) **7.40** Give Us A Clue (412945) **8.20** All Clued Up (481755) **9.00** Through the Keyhole (715910) **9.35** Busman's Holiday (617939) **10.05** Treasure Hunt (175736) **11.20** Love at First Sight (957842) **12.00** Sale of the Century (73476) **12.30am** Family Law: Hart to Hart (58585) **1.30** Moonlighting (91088) **2.30** Chesty (30040) **3.30** My Two Dads (75750) **4.00-5.00**



AIMING HIGH 46
Airbus seeks partners for superjumbo

BUSINESS

COMPANIES 43
Tesco profits tipped to hit rivals for six



MONDAY APRIL 7 1997

Astra to offer emergency satellite for digital TV

BY ERIC REGULY

SES, the Luxembourg company that owns the Astra satellites, has told BSkyB that its plans for digital television need not be jeopardised by the delay in launching the satellite that was to transmit the new channels.

The start of digital is now more likely to depend on the formation of a joint company designed to finance the set-top boxes that viewers will need to get access to the channels.

BSkyB learned recently that the Astra 2A satellite, made by the Hughes Corporation of the United States, will not be put into orbit until October, two months later than scheduled, meaning that it will not become operational until December at the earliest. BSkyB, which is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*, has said that it wants to start the channels in the autumn.

SES, whose shareholders include Pearson, owner of the *Financial Times*, said it will find capacity on other Astra satellites if BSkyB wants to go ahead before December. The Astra 1G satellite, to be launched in early August, could provide a temporary home. An SES spokesman said: "It is Sky's intention to launch its digital package before the end of the year, and the 2A delay will not interfere in that."

The 200 or so digital channels will give viewers an unprecedented viewing choice, from continuously shown films to pay-per-view sporting events. BSkyB customers will require a digital set-top box, which is expected to sell for about £200 in high street electronics outlets.

BSkyB has not ordered the one million set-top boxes and is unlikely to do so until it completes the negotiations to create the £600 million Interactive Services Company, or Isco.

Isco is being formed to subsidise the price of the set-top boxes. In exchange, its probable investors — BSkyB, British Telecom, Midland Bank and Matsushita, the Japanese electronics company that owns the Panasonic brand — are to share in the income generated by the interactive services made possible by the boxes. BT would not comment on the negotiations, which are thought to be moving slowly. BSkyB would say only that Isco's formation "is closer than you think".

BT is expected to be the largest Isco investor. It could profit from Isco by supplying phone connections that would allow subscribers to communicate with providers of home banking and home shopping services.

US opens way for cheaper Zantac

BY ROBERT MILLER

THE cost of Zantac, the world's bestselling prescription ulcer drug, could fall by up to 50 per cent this summer after a US Court of Appeals ruling.

Novopharm, the Canadian-owned pharmaceutical company, was given the go-ahead this weekend to sell a generic equivalent of Zantac, which has worldwide annual sales worth more than $2 billion, in late July.

Glaxo Wellcome, the rival pharmaceutical group, holds two US patents for manufacturing Zantac, known professionally as ranitidine hydrochloride. The patent for Form 1 was due to expire in December 1995 but this was prolonged by a 20-month patent extension granted under Gatt guidelines. The patent for Form 2 expires in 2002. In the US court case Glaxo Wellcome claimed that by producing Form 1 when it ran out of patent Novopharm would infringe on Form 2.

In a 23-page ruling the US Appeals Court upheld an earlier district court ruling. It added: "Glaxo failed to prove infringement by a preponderance of evidence."

Jacques Messier, president and chief operating officer of Novopharm, which specialises in making "generic" drugs, said yesterday: "The patent for Zantac's Form 1 runs out on July 25 and on July 26 our product will be there. In such cases we sell products that are anywhere between 30 to 50 per cent less expensive."

Glaxo Wellcome said yesterday that it had already factored in the cost of generic competition for Zantac. Last month the group said US sales of the drug could fall by up to 80 per cent in the year starting July 26. This forecast was a worst-case scenario, however. US sales of Zantac last year declined 14 per cent to £1 billion, equivalent to 54 per cent of the drug's global sales and 23 per cent of Glaxo's overall revenue.

Labour ready to carry out Revenue sale

BY JASON NISSÉ

THE Labour Party is planning to go ahead with a government scheme to sell off the Inland Revenue's 450 offices, which occupy 14 million square feet of office space, in a £2.5 billion privatisation.

Deloitte & Touche, the accountant, is close to completing an evaluation of the project, which will be structured in a similar way to the sales of the Department of Social Security estate, due to be completed in July.

Several bidders — including Nomura, the Japanese house that led the £1.6 billion deal to buy the Ministry of Defence married quarters — have already expressed interest in the Revenue sale. This could bring an immediate £500 million into the Exchequer and be worth as much as £2 billion over the next 20 years.

The Revenue confirmed that an evaluation process is going on but said no decision would be taken until the second half of this year.

A Revenue sell-off could lead to further property privatisations under Labour, including a review of the property needs of the Foreign Office. This would include selling off some British embassies and moving to less expensive accommodation. For instance, in Bangkok the embassy occupies 11 acres of prime development land thought to be worth at least £100 million.

The DSS privatisation, called DSS Prime, was supposed to be completed this spring, but has been put on hold until after the election. The two remaining bidders are both led by American banks: Goldman Sachs and Nationsbank. They are to put in final offers at the end of May, with a decision made by mid-July.

It is expected that Labour will go ahead with Prime, so long as it considers the bids to be high enough. Harriet Harman, the Shadow Social Security Secretary, told *The Times*: "We are not opposed to public and private sector partnerships so long as they are in the public interest."

The Prime deal will bring an immediate payment of £250 million and generate savings of as much as £100 million a year for the next 20 years. The DSS occupies 700 sites and 18 million square feet of space around the country.

Although the Revenue estate is four million square feet smaller, it is considered much more valuable because a third of the estate is freehold and includes more attractive offices, such as its headquarters at Somerset House in central London. Property experts believe that the Government may be able to demand an up-front payment of £500 million from any purchaser and will look for savings at least as high as those generated by Prime.

The Prime project is deemed part of the Government's Private Finance Initiative (PFI) and was born out of the idea that the private sector is much better than the public sector at managing property.

Mike Kerr, a Deloitte partner working on Prime, said: "Government departments find it very difficult to look ahead. When offices become vacant it has been found that government departments take much longer to get rid of the excess space than private companies."

The decision to back Prime and the Revenue sell-off represents an element of volte-face by the Labour Party, which had been critical of the policy of selling properties occupied by government departments to the private sector. In particular, Labour attacked the sale of the MoD married quarters.

The MoD remains the largest government landowner, with an estate which includes millions of square feet of offices and large tranches of land in the west and south of England, Scotland and Germany. A project to value the MoD estate was started last year but is many months from completion.



Gordon Campbell, left, and Trevor Evans examine fabrics made from Tencel, developed by chemical engineers

Appliance of virtual science

GORDON CAMPBELL, president-elect of the Institute of Chemical Engineers, and Trevor Evans, its chief executive, today mark the institute's 75th anniversary by launching a report calling for an electronically linked, multi-disciplinary "virtual research school".

The new kind of school would be designed to speed co-operative research and bring to competitive markets innovative products, such as colourful fabrics made from the Tencel fibre developed by chemists for Courtaulds, the chemicals group where Mr Campbell is chief executive.

City expects rise in rates

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

THE CITY is bracing itself for a sharp rise in interest rates after the general election, with some economists predicting that rates will now need to rise as high as 8 per cent to head off inflationary pressures.

Roger Young, director-general of the Institute of Management, says that economic confidence is turning into over-confidence and that there are clear signs inflation is about to "raise its ugly head".

Mr Young's comments come as the Institute of Management publishes a report showing some evidence of inflation feeding into the economy, with 25 per cent of managers reporting a rise in prices for goods and services, an increase of 7 per cent over the previous quarter.

A separate report to be published later this week by Lehman Brothers argues that official figures have been underestimating recent growth and that in reality the economy has been growing at above 4 per cent during the past three quarters.

The report concludes that interest rates will "certainly" need to rise to 7.5 per cent and "probably" to 8 per cent to slow the economy.

The industrial production figures, due out on Wednesday, are expected to provide further evidence of the strength of the service sector. The consensus is that annual manufacturing output will rise from 1.6 per cent to only 1.7 per cent as exports are held back by the strong pound.

Roger Bootle, page 44
Gilt-Edged, page 45

Yachtsman offers Far East trade challenge

BY JON ASHWORTH

BRITISH business will soon be waving the flag in Tokyo, Singapore and other exotic climes. Chay Blyth, the round-the-world yachtsman, is pioneering an initiative to turn international yacht racing into a prime commercial venture.

Mr Blyth, who arrives in Cape Town today for the latest leg of the BT Global Challenge, has devised a Far Eastern package for companies looking to develop contacts in the region. The Asia Pacific Business Challenge, launched this week, will combine yacht racing, business forums and corporate entertainment.

Commercial Union, BT and Group 4 Securitas are among companies to back Mr Blyth's Cornish company, The Challenge Business, which runs global yacht races. The new venture comprises ten regattas in key Far Eastern cities, including Hong Kong, Taipei,



Blyth: ten regattas

Bangkok, Brunei, Jakarta and Kuala Lumpur. Each will last 15 days, with the first starting in Tokyo in March 1998.

The schedule will include corporate hospitality, branding and marketing opportunities, sponsors' promotions, business lunches, and evening receptions. The 67ft racing yachts will provide a unique spectacle in countries where sailing is still a young and exciting sport.

The highlight of each regatta will be a two-day racing programme for sponsors and their guests, followed by a prizewinners' party and trophy presentation. There will be a chance to sail between cities, with sailing times ranging from a few days to almost two weeks.

It costs £185,000 to become a yacht sponsor, ensuring participation at each of the ten events, but companies can participate for as little as £18,000.

Mr Blyth said he had been approached by enthusiasts, who felt the Asia Pacific was missing out on the excitement of round-the-world racing. Race organisers favour a route that takes in the southern oceans, where conditions are more challenging.

Blair seen as chief executive material

TONY BLAIR is the political leader the business community would choose to become their own chief exective, according to a survey of British companies published today (Alasdair Murray writes).

The poll of 600 businesses, conducted by Reed Personnel Services, found that 40 per cent of respondents favoured Mr Blair ahead of John Major (36 per cent) and Paddy Ashdown (14 per cent).

The Labour leader proved most popular in the South, taking 47 per cent of the vote compared with 29 per cent who chose the Tory leader. But Mr Major triumphed in the North, taking 46 per cent of the vote against 24 per cent for Mr Blair. By sector, Mr Blair won most support among retail and distribution businesses, while Mr Major was the choice of the manufacturing sector.

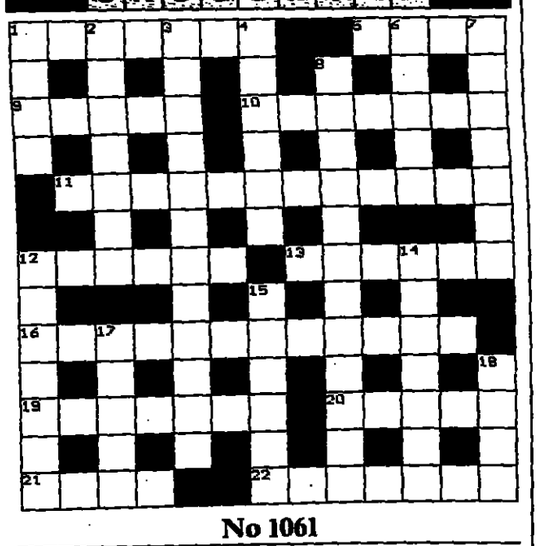
The survey found that business personnel believe Mr Blair has a younger outlook and is open to change. Mr Major was regarded as honest and believable, while Mr Ashdown was credited with good man-management skills.

BUSINESS TOMORROW



JANET BUSH says that none of the three main parties is talking much sense on tax because the reality is just too embarrassing.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1061

ACROSS
1 Poky (7)
5 Be right next to (4)
9 S.Am. mammal, sounds like *get thinner* (5)
10 Johnson's biographer (7)
11 11 November (9,3)
12 Genial; harmless (6)
13 Riviera principality (6)
16 French anthem (12)
19 US president after Eisenhower (7)
20 Bear, taught Mowgli (*Kipling*) (5)
21 Yorkshiremen don't expect *owt* for it (4)
22 Appropriate in advance (3-4)

DOWN
1 Quote (4)
2 Headache tablet (7)
3 Roadside bay machine (7,5)
4 Discussion (6)
6 Type (of eg dog); produce young (5)
7 Huntsman's cry (5-2)
8 Sub-Freudian jargon (12)
12 Yokel (7)
14 King David's rebellious son (7)
15 To emphasise; to be erratic (4,2)
17 Prolong validity of (5)
18 Character set (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1060
ACROSS: 3 Vertebra 7 Mirage 8 Unkind 9 Quaint 10 Bridge 11 Sash 13 Golem 15 Rise 17 Across 18 Septet 19 Hudson 20 Direct 21 Minutiae
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